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# THE SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL MAGAZINE

JANUARY 1958

VOLUME LIX

NUMBER 1



THE SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
CHARLESTON, S. C.

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Series

## THE SHIP "PROSPER," 1775-1776

By HAROLD A. MOUZON

It seems a pity that Dr. Joseph Johnson was entirely mistaken when he wrote:

The Prosper having been changed, in her rigging, to a brig, a battery of eighteen guns mounted in the place of her twenty, she was called the Notre Dame, and Captain William Hall was appointed to command her.<sup>1</sup>

For the "Notre Dame" was a lively little vessel whose career was longer and more eventful than that of any of her sisters in the South Carolina navy, whereas the "Prosper" was dull and pretentious and futile, and nothing much ever happened to her. Certainly she never got to be the "Notre Dame," as the record will make clear.

Scarcely had the echoes died across Charlestown harbor on November 12, 1775, from the bloodless battle between the Colony schooner "Defence" and the British sloops "Tamar" and "Cherokee," the first shots of the Revolution in South Carolina, when the Provincial Congress ordered that a committee consisting of Mr. Edwards, Captain Joiner, Captain Shubrick, Mr. Neufville, and Mr. Verree consider the advisability of arming and manning the ship "Prosper," "for the purpose of taking or sinking the men of war now in Rebellion Road."<sup>2</sup>

This was not such an ambitious program as it might sound, since the men of war in Rebellion Road were His Majesty's sloops "Tamar" of sixteen six-pounders and "Cherokee" of six or eight small guns.<sup>3</sup> The "Prosper" was obviously a much larger vessel, since she is always spoken of as a "ship" and was later armed with considerably heavier guns.

All that we know of the earlier history of the "Prosper" is that for some years before this she had been plying between Bristol and the American colonies. On a voyage from Cape Fear to Bristol in March 1768, she took off most of the crew and some of the cargo of the brig "Nancy," "from Glasgow for Virginia, in great distress, out 7 weeks, 3 feet water in her hold," when the "Nancy" was abandoned at sea.<sup>4</sup> In

<sup>1</sup> Joseph Johnson, *Traditions and Reminiscences Chiefly of the American Revolution in the South* (Charleston, 1851), p. 117.

<sup>2</sup> "Journal of South Carolina Provincial Congress," *American Archives, Fourth Series* (Washington, 1843), IV, col. 49.

<sup>3</sup> *The South-Carolina Gazette*, Nov. 14, 1775.

<sup>4</sup> *The Virginia Gazette*, Williamsburg, May 26, 1768.

April 1771, the "Prosper" arrived in New River, twelve weeks out from Bristol, having lost her master, Captain Thompson, washed overboard at sea.<sup>5</sup> In October of the same year she was back in York River, seven weeks from Bristol.<sup>6</sup>

The Committee thought well of the "Prosper," and the Provincial Congress forthwith resolved that she be taken into the service of the colony and armed as a "frigate of war." The same Committee were appointed commissioners to direct the arming, equipping, and manning of the ship, and Colonel Moultrie, who commanded the militia in Charleston, was ordered to detail an officer and fifty men "to guard and protect the said ship against any attempt that may be made to injure or remove her, until further notice."<sup>7</sup>

On November 14 the Provincial Congress appointed Clement Lempriere, who had been a successful privateer in King George's War, captain of the "Prosper" and Thomas Sherman first lieutenant, and provided that her officers and crew be paid at the same rate as those of the schooner "Defence."<sup>8</sup>

It was urgent that the "Prosper" be manned and equipped with all possible speed, since everyone expected the "Tamar" and the "Cherokee" at any moment to attack Fort Johnson on James Island, which had been occupied by South Carolina militia on September 15, and then to move on up Charles town harbor to shell the rebellious town. Hence the somewhat incoherent tone of this undated letter from Pierce Butler, presumably to Arthur Middleton, since it was found among his correspondence:

Pray make a point of having the Guns put on Board the *Prosper* without loss of time. The only Support that can be given to the Fort is by Means of Her and the Schooner's Four Guns in the Bow of the ship two 18 and two 12 pounders with the Support the Schooner can give will be of Essential Service. I should think that Soldiers Sufficient to work the Ship's Guns may be spared from the Barrack. Excuse the Liberty I take in mentioning these matters to You. I believe I need not tell you my motives for doing it. I really think there is not an Hour to be lost. By this Support we may save the Flower of our young men at the Fort.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, April 11, 1771.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, Oct. 11, 1771.

<sup>7</sup> "Journal of South Carolina Provincial Congress," *op. cit.*, col. 50.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, col. 54. John Drayton, *Memoirs of the American Revolution* (Charleston, 1851), II, 78, 81.

<sup>9</sup> "Correspondence of Hon. Arthur Middleton," *The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, XXVII (1926), 139.

A week after his appointment Captain Lempriere had not yet taken command of the "Prosper," and William Henry Drayton, president of the Provincial Congress, sent him peremptory orders to go on board his ship at once, "there to discharge the duties of a commander." Thereupon Captain Lempriere wrote to Congress, declining to serve, and on November 23 Captain Simon Tufts, commander of the schooner "Defence," was promoted to command of the "Prosper."<sup>10</sup>

Despite the delay in getting a captain for her, the "Prosper" was duly armed, according to Moultrie, with twenty nine-pounders, though John Drayton says there were eight twelve-pounders, eight sixes, and some fours and swivels. Drayton apparently is right, since when the guns were landed, the account mentions eight twelve-pounders and seven sixes, and there is a record of the Council of Safety's ordering payment for six four-pounders for the "Prosper."<sup>11</sup>

In the meantime the "Prosper" had been appraised by Henry Laurens, Roger Smith, and Edward Blake, and her value fixed at two thousand pounds sterling. The appraisers' report speaks of "the ship Prosper, of Bristol."<sup>12</sup> The South Carolinians were acting with astonishing tenderness toward the country against which the "Prosper" was being armed, for the Committee in charge of arming her duly tendered two thousand pounds to Captain Smith, her late master, for transmittal to her owners. The Committee reported that Captain Smith had refused to accept the money or to execute an assignment of the ship, but had delivered the register. The purchase money was returned to the Treasury, but on recommendation of the Committee two hundred and forty-five pounds currency was paid to Captain Smith for "necessaries and a passage."<sup>13</sup> Even more indicative of the amateur spirit of good sportsmanship was the resolution adopted by the Congress on November 27, though after some debate, which provided that "previous to any attack upon the Men of War in the Road, the intended attack upon such ships

<sup>10</sup> "Journal of South Carolina Provincial Congress," *op. cit.*, col. 63-64.

<sup>11</sup> William Moultrie, *Memoirs of the American Revolution* (New York, 1802), I, 310.

Drayton, *Memoirs*, II, 81.

"Diary of Captain Barnard Elliott," *Charleston Year Book*, 1889, p. 208.

<sup>13</sup> "Journal of the Second Council of Safety Appointed by the Provincial Congress, Nov., 1775," *Collections of the South Carolina Historical Society* (Charleston, 1859), III, 232.

An item in *The Virginia Gazette* of April 5, 1776, mentions the "Prosper" as mounting 24 guns.

<sup>12</sup> "Journal of South Carolina Provincial Congress," *op. cit.*, col. 57-58.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, col. 66.

shall be notified to Lord William Campbell, if he shall then be on board."<sup>14</sup>

Getting a crew for the "Prosper" seems to have been slow work, and on November 27 the Provincial Congress called on Colonel Moultrie "forthwith to order a detachment of forty Privates, who are best acquainted with maritime affairs, to do duty and serve on board the armed Ship 'Prosper,' for one month, unless sooner discharged by proper authority."<sup>15</sup>

In the meantime, on November 25, the Congress had entrusted the "direction, regulation, and ordering of the land and sea forces" to the Council of Safety,<sup>16</sup> a very powerful group of which President William Henry Drayton was a prominent and influential member. A leader of the extreme revolutionary faction in South Carolina, he was anxious to bring on a complete break with Great Britain and had boarded the "Defence" on November 11 with the deliberate intention of provoking hostilities and so defeating the hopes of the more moderate party.<sup>17</sup>

On December 11 the Council ordered a quarter barrel of powder aboard the "Prosper" and on December 13 they gave her her first assignment, a mild one. On that date Captain Tufts was ordered to move the ship "Betsy" up the Ashley River, near the "Prosper," being "very attentive to prevent negroes going on board the said ship, and every irregular correspondence with the shore."<sup>18</sup>

Captain Tufts did not have to watch the "Betsy" for long. The zealous Mr. Drayton, perhaps inspired by his taste of sea warfare on the "Defence," on December 14 "made an offer of his service in the naval department." It was apparently felt that anything less than the command of the "Prosper" would be beneath Mr. Drayton's dignity, for the next day his offer was accepted "upon condition that Capt. Tufts will relinquish his command of the ship Prosper." Unless Captain Tufts was by this time anxious to get back to the livelier "Defence," he was a most unselfish man. He assured Henry Laurens, the president of the Council, "that he should not look upon any exchange or alteration in his situation, that might be conducive to the public good, as a slight or disgrace; and that he would readily and cheerfully quit the command of the Prosper,

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, col. 69. Lord William Campbell, royal governor of South Carolina, had taken refuge on the "Tamar" in September.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, col. 69.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, col. 68.

<sup>17</sup> Drayton, *Memoirs*, II, 70-74.

<sup>18</sup> "Journal of Second Council of Safety," *op. cit.*, pp. 79, 82.

and resume that of the Defence, or serve in any capacity wherein he could be useful to the colony."

Accordingly Mr. Drayton was promptly commissioned as captain of the "Prosper," and the Council resolved that "the captains in the colony navy bear command independent of each other, and without regard to date of commissions, until further order."<sup>19</sup> The Council thus obviated the disturbing possibility that the Honorable Captain William Henry Drayton, as he now was styled, President of the Provincial Congress, Member of the Council of Safety, etc., etc., might be outranked by plain Captain Simon Tufts.

Commenting on this transaction, William Moultrie observed that the new captain "was no sailor, and did not know any one rope from another."<sup>20</sup> Even Captain Drayton's son John felt it necessary to explain that his father's appointment was intended to stimulate recruiting for the navy. "It is true," he wrote, "Mr. Drayton's liberal education in Europe, had been very different from one of sea affairs; on which account, this appointment was thought somewhat extraordinary: but the Council of Safety had their reasons for so doing; and were satisfied they thereby promoted the public service."<sup>21</sup>

On the same day he was himself commissioned, Captain Drayton procured commissions for Stephen Seymour as second lieutenant and Jacob Milligan as third lieutenant.<sup>22</sup> He also promptly launched a campaign to recruit a crew. In the newspaper of December 22 there appeared an advertisement headed "Good Births" and reading:

The Honorable William Henry Drayton, Commander of the Colony Ship of War "Prosper," hereby invites all able-bodied Seamen and Land-men to enter on board the said Ship. He assures them, that they shall meet with good Treatment, and that they shall in their Commander find a Friend:<sup>23</sup> And for their further Encouragement, It is hereby notified, That to every such Person entering on board the said Ship a Bounty of Ten Pounds will be paid and also Twenty-One Pounds per Month Wages. And that on the 20th of November last, the Congress Resolved, That they will make Provision for the support of all Persons who may be maimed and disabled in the Public Service of

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 85, 87, 88.

<sup>20</sup> Moultrie, *Memoirs*, I, 111.

<sup>21</sup> Drayton, *Memoirs*, II, 162.

<sup>22</sup> "Journal of Second Council of Safety," *op. cit.*, p. 90.

<sup>23</sup> This is faintly reminiscent of Captain Reece, R. N., who, it will be recalled: "Did all that lay within him to Promote the comfort of his crew."

the Colony by Sea or Land; and also of the Families of such as may be killed in the said Services.<sup>24</sup>

Drayton's first lieutenant, Thomas Sherman, was sent to Savannah to recruit there, and from him under date of January 7, 1776, there came this rather plaintive missive to his captain:

Sir, I have sixteen men now under my orders—twelve of them good seamen and carpenters. I only await your orders to proceed, as I am afraid to go. There are four men-of-war at Coxspur, and it is dangerous to go by water, but I will run all risk after I hear from you. I expected to be favored with a few lines from you for my further instructions, but have had not one line from you. Sir, till I hear, I remain your obedient, humble servant, to command,

THOS. SHERMAN.<sup>25</sup>

Instead of "a few lines" to Sherman, Drayton had apparently written to Joseph Habersham, one of the patriot leaders in Savannah, who replied:

Dear Sir:—I have your favor of the 23rd ult., and have now the pleasure to inform you that Sherman has met with pretty good success in recruiting for the "Prosper,"—the greatest difficulty is how to get the sailors conveyed to Charlestown. I have procured the Scout Boat to go with them as far as Purisburgh and have wrote to Major Bourquier at that place to forward them on; Sherman and Will's expences have been very considerable; however, when you consider that they have entertained fifty men for upwards of a month at a public house, and that £ 40 of the money was advanced for four of the men, it cannot far exceed your expectations. The tavern keeper has charged very high. I made him attest his accounts. Previous to which he had the modesty to strike off £ 5 from one of the accounts. Upon the whole, I think it is lucky that so many have enlisted, more especially as the ships were in such great want of men. \* \* \* \* \*

P. S.—Sherman tells me he has twenty-five or twenty-six men to carry round.<sup>26</sup>

It is noteworthy that the enlistment agreements signed by the recruits stated no definite term of service.<sup>27</sup> Later the Commissioners of the Navy of South Carolina were to make desperate efforts to get seamen to sign up for six months.

<sup>24</sup> *The South Carolina and American General Gazette*, Dec. 22, 1775.

<sup>25</sup> R. W. Gibbes, *Documentary History of the American Revolution, 1764-1776* (New York, 1855), p. 253. Cocks spur Island is at the mouth of the Savannah River.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 258-259. Purrysburg was on the South Carolina side of the Savannah River a short distance above the city.

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 260, 269.

On January 13, 1776, all the seamen from the colony brigantine "Comet" were ordered on board the "Prosper"; and the "Comet" did not get them back again for a month, although on January 18 the Council of Safety at Drayton's request ordered that "all the seamen inlisted in Georgia, for the naval service of this colony, be shipped on board the colony ship Prosper."<sup>28</sup>

In one instance at least Captain Drayton carried out his promise to be a friend to his crew. On January 12, upon his application, the Council of Safety wrote a stern letter to "Capt. Smith of the snow in Stono River," demanding that he promptly pay the wages of certain of his seamen who had enlisted on the "Prosper."<sup>29</sup>

Drayton, while busy about securing a crew, was also active in the arming of his ship for active service. We find the Council of Safety supplying him with four barrels of powder and "such cannon shot of different kind as he shall require" on December 23, 1775; with empty cartridges and cartridge-papers on December 25; with eighteen cutlasses upon his special application on January 8, 1776; with two hundred-weight of cannon powder on January 14.<sup>30</sup>

But the powder and shot were never fired and the cutlasses never swung. The "Prosper" was never ordered to do anything or go anywhere. True, on January 23 the Council did tell the Committee on James Island to take possession of a sloop and a schooner thought to be loading for illicit trade with the enemy and "to conduct them, without delay, to this harbour, and put them under the protection of the ship Prosper."<sup>31</sup> This does not sound very exciting, and what occurred on January 25 was not much more so, though it was apparently the nearest the "Prosper" ever came to being called on for active service:

Information being given to the Council that a Brigantine had come in over the bar, which might be an enemy, *Ordered*, That a boat be sent down to reconnoitre; and that Capt. Drayton, with the Prosper, do immediately make sail to cover the said boat, and bring up the Brigantine if practicable.<sup>32</sup>

Whether the "Prosper" was able to find and bring up the brigantine or not, we do not know, but from this time on the largest of the colony's ships seems to have been practically ignored. By February 26 her

<sup>28</sup> "Journal of Second Council of Safety," *op. cit.*, pp. 174, 189, 258.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 168.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 110, 116, 155, 183.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 209.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 221.

fortunes had reached so low an ebb that the Council was writing to Captain Drayton to direct that he transfer thirty of his men to the brig "Comet" and ten to the schooner "Defence" in order that these vessels might get ready for cruising on the coast.<sup>33</sup> On March 21 the Provincial Congress, intent on cutting off trade with England, ordered that the "Port Henderson," "now lying under the cannon of Fort Johnson, and bound for London, be forthwith seized and brought up to Charlestown under the care of the Prosper ship-of-war."<sup>34</sup> This seems to have been her last flicker of activity.

Probably it was a relief to Drayton when, upon the establishment of a new constitution in South Carolina on March 26, 1776, he was elected chief justice<sup>35</sup> and could with good grace yield up the command of his lubberly ship. On April 10 the House and Legislative Council of the new government elected Clement Lempriere to the office he had once declined, "Captain and Commander of the Colony Ship-of-War Prosper." This time Captain Lempriere accepted.<sup>36</sup>

Commanding the "Prosper" now must have been a very dull business. When everyone was expecting British ships to attack Charles town in January, the Council of Safety had adopted a rather elaborate plan of defence, which provided:

8. That the scooner Defence be stationed about Crab Bank in Hog Island Creek, and the ship Prosper to the westward of and near the battery next to Fort Johnson and that the commanders of those vessels use their best endeavours to take or destroy the enemy's boats or other vessels.

Following in the Journal of the Council there is this note:

Eighth order postponed, till Capt. Drayton according to his desire, be heard.<sup>37</sup>

No doubt Captain Drayton felt that his ship should be assigned a more active and heroic role, but there was no such feeling on the part of Captain Lempriere. When the forces of Sir Peter Parker and General Clinton were gathering for the long-expected attack on Charlestown, he wrote a letter to the authorities dated May 28, 1776, which was evidently quite uncomplimentary to his ship. Partly at least as a result of this

<sup>33</sup> Gibbes, *op. cit.*, pp. 260-261.

<sup>34</sup> "Journal of South Carolina Provincial Congress," *op. cit.*, V, col. 597.

<sup>35</sup> "Journal of South Carolina General Assembly," *American Archives, Fourth Series*, V, col. 615-616.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, col. 646-647.

<sup>37</sup> "Journal of Second Council of Safety," *op. cit.*, pp. 205-207.

letter we find a melancholy entry in the order book of Captain Barnard Elliott of the artillery under date of June 7, 1776:

The 8 Twelve-pounders that are to be landed from on board the ship Prosper with their carriages, ammunition and stores, five of which to be sent up to Gibbes' battery, the remaining to the battery on Laurens's wharf. The 7 six-pounders from on board the same vessel to be sent to the redoubt on Harleston's Green with their carriages, their ammunition and stores to be landed at Col. Gadsden's old house until further orders. Adjutant Nixon to see this business done.<sup>38</sup>

And so the "Prosper" lay, a helpless hulk, stripped of her proud guns. She was allowed no part in the defence against the invaders, nor did her late commander fare better. There is a letter from Richard Hutson, in the artillery at Fort Johnson, to Isaac Hayne, who was to die a martyr to the American cause, dated June 24, 1776, which says:

The other part of the Company are to be stationed as a *corps de reserve* to the New Battery, which General Lee has entirely demolished excepting three guns. His first question upon seeing it was, what d.....d fool planned this Battery? A by-stander replied that it had been planned by Mr. Drayton, our present Chief Justice. Says he, he may be a very good Chief Justice, but he is a d.....d bad engineer, for if the enemy had the planning of it they could not have fixed it in a better place for the reduction of Fort Johnson.<sup>39</sup>

The final chapter on the "Prosper" was written when the General Assembly met in the fall. President John Rutledge sent them a message on September 21:

On considering Captain Lempriere's letter herewith sent, and other representations respecting the ship "Prosper," it was thought expedient at the time of the late invasion to apply her guns to the use of some of the batteries, and put her out of the way of danger. In my opinion it will be most for the public advantage to sell her or employ her in trade; but I think myself not authorized to do so. You will therefore judge in what manner it will be best to dispose of her.

The Assembly, having read Captain Lempriere's letter of May 28, promptly resolved that the "Prosper" be sold and so advised President Rutledge.<sup>40</sup> There was an advertisement in the papers:

*To be sold by Auction at Col. Gadsden's Wharf, on Tuesday next, the fifth day of October at twelve o'Clock. The Ship Prosper, with all her*

<sup>38</sup> "Diary of Captain Barnard Elliott," *op. cit.*, p. 208.

<sup>39</sup> *Charleston Year Book*, 1895, p. 320.

<sup>40</sup> "Journal of South Carolina General Assembly," *op. cit.*, III, col. 19-20.

Tackle and Furniture, as she now lies at the said Wharf. Inventory thereon to be seen in the Hands of

SAMUEL PRIOLEAU JUN. & Co.<sup>41</sup>

*Sic transit—.*

What was wrong with the "Prosper" we shall probably never know, unless Captain Lempriere's letter comes to light; but she had proved a complete failure. It is true that Captain Drayton's commission indicated that she was intended "for the protection of the harbour of Charlestown" and that Moultrie later wrote: "The Prosper was fitted out as a guardship for the harbor of Charlestown, to prevent the boats going in and out of the port, to give intelligence; and to be an additional force to Fort Johnson and our harbor."<sup>42</sup>

That was all she ever was or did, but certainly that was not the sort of service Captain Drayton had in mind when he sent Lieutenant Sherman to tempt the seamen of Savannah with the fleshpots of the taverns, or when he armed his crew with cutlasses and reminded them that their families would be provided for should they die in battle with the enemy at sea. If the "Prosper" never put to sea, it was because in some way or another she had disappointed the high expectations of those who armed and manned her. The probability is that, like many merchantmen, she lacked the stability necessary to a fighting ship and was cranky and unseaworthy when heavy guns were put aboard her. She must have been a clumsy-looking craft, for General C. C. Pinckney, writing to his mother on June 29, 1776, and telling of the assault of the British ships on Moultrie's fort the day before, describes one of them as "a heavy hulk of a vessel something like our Prosper."<sup>43</sup>

She should have been allowed to live out her days as a peaceful trader. Maybe she did after her purchaser moved her, her tackle, and furniture, from Col. Gadsden's wharf.

<sup>41</sup> *The South-Carolina and American General Gazette*, Sept. 25, 1776.

<sup>42</sup> Moultrie, *Memoirs*, I, 111.

<sup>43</sup> R. W. Gibbes, *Documentary History of the American Revolution, 1776-1782* (New York, 1857), p. 8.

DIARY OF CAPTAIN JOSEPH JULIUS WESCOAT, 1863-1865<sup>1</sup>

Edited by ANNE KING GREGORIE

Joseph Julius Wescoat, son of Joseph Jenkins Wescoat (May 31, 1810-July 4, 1865) and his wife Emmeline Amanda Rivers (August 6, 1817-1891), was born October 10, 1842, on Edisto Island, South Carolina.<sup>2</sup> After the secession of the southern states, he enlisted November 1, 1861, at Camp Heyward, under Captain William C. Meggett, and he was elected captain from the ranks, May 3, 1862, of Company B, 11th Regiment, South Carolina Volunteers.<sup>3</sup> His diary, begun during the defense of Charleston, was continued through campaigns in Florida, Virginia, and North Carolina, and ended while he was a prisoner of war in Fort Delaware.

After the war, Captain Wescoat formed a partnership with his uncle, Samuel Marshall, and carried on the Marshall, Wescoat Hardware Company in Charleston. He married Sarah Anderson of Walterboro, and their two sons, Julius and Marshall, grew to manhood and married. When Captain Wescoat's health began to fail, he gave up his home in Charleston, and built in Summer-ville, whence he commuted daily to his business by railroad. He died on his birthday, October 10, 1908, and was buried in Sumter, South Carolina.<sup>4</sup>

The original diary, owned by Mrs. George Carroll Brown (Esther Wescoat), of Walterboro, having been temporarily misplaced, was not available for collating with a typed copy made some years ago, which was copied for publication below. The editor has made no changes except to supply some names which were illegible to the typist, and to slightly modernize the punctuation.

## DIARY OF CAPT. J. J. WESCOAT

## 11th S. Car. Volunteers

Commenced at Fort Johnson, James Island, S. C.

*Sept. 8th. 1863.* Ordered to Charleston. Arrived at 8 o'clock P.M. Slept on the cars.

*Sept. 9th.* Marched to James Island. Encamped about 2 miles from Fort Johnson in an old field.

*[Sept.] 10th.* Still at the same place. Nothing of importance transpired to mar the monotony of Camp save the occasional bursting of

<sup>1</sup> A contemporary diary by Arthur Brailsford Wescoat was published in this *Magazine*, LV (1954), 71.

<sup>2</sup> Information from family records in possession of Mrs. G. Carroll Brown.

<sup>3</sup> Information from F. M. Hutson, South Carolina Archives Department.

<sup>4</sup> Information from family records in possession of Mrs. Brown, and of Miss Nellie Jervey of Charleston.

Shell over the Yankee Batteries on Morris Island, from our works at Fort Johnson, and Sullivan's Island.<sup>5</sup> Noel Winningham (a new member of my Co.) died this morning at 7 o'clock—poor fellow, struck down in the very prime of youth—truly “in the midst of life we are in death” . . . We drop a tear of sorrow to the memory of one who was held in the highest esteem by his numerous friends.

[Sept.] 11th. Ordered to Fort Johnson—left at 9 o'clock and after a short but tiresome march stopped in an old field (famous place for us) about 1¼ mile from the Fort. Scarcely had the tents been pitched before we had a heavy shower, which, by the way is much needed. Our Batteries have been busy shelling the enemy's works on the Island at intervals of about 5 minutes. The enemy were perfectly quiet until about 2 o'clock p.m., when they fired at Fort Johnson, which they kept up for a short time. I go on picket tonight.

[Sept.] 12th. Just returned from picket. Our Batteries kept up a regular fire upon the Yankee Batteries on Morris Island. About 12 o'clock a false alarm was raised in consequence of the repeated firing of small arms. Except for an occasional shot from our own Batteries it would have been difficult to believe for the last two days that a large besieging force is in sight of the spires of Charleston; abandoned by the busy keel of commerce, the waves under the pale Autumn sky, have slept more quietly than they ever slept in the good old times before the separation.

A bird's eye view, however, across the blue waters of the Bay, from some elevated point betray at once the utter hollowness of the semblance of peace. Yonder at Cummings Point, Battery Gregg is rapidly approaching the divisions of a hostile fort, and not far off on the parapet of Wagner floats the Yankee flag, as proudly as if it were never stained by a thousand disgraces. Some what further to the South the formidable batteries No. 1 and No. 2 may be seen looking as formidable as ever and if you watch closely you may detect a relieved working party either drawn up on the sand or disappearing behind the hills. Still further beyond, there gleam the white tents of the enemy, and over the woods towards the masts of the fleet, the Ironsides lies where it has lain for the last two days, close under Gregg, while five monitors are anchored considerably nearer to the North end of Morris Island than they would have cared to be a week ago. Col. Yates commanding Artillery on James Island threw a shell from Battery Simkins yesterday into Gregg which exploded a caison or Magazine, which caused great confusion among them.

<sup>5</sup> For a detailed map of the harbor and its defenses, see John Johnson, *The Defense of Charleston Harbor . . . 1863-1865* (Charleston, 1890), plate X, after appendix.

[Sept.] 13th. Today is Sunday. Nothing unusual. Returned from picketting opposite Wagner. Went on inspection at 10 o'clock—preaching in the afternoon and evening. Many joined the church.

[Sept.] 14th. Same old thing—on picket last night. The Yankees are very quiet. Our Batteries are still firing at intervals which seem to interrupt their working very much. They fail to show themselves in the day, our firing being so accurate that it would be inconsistent with their sense of safety to risk their heads among our shells. The Ironsides still at her anchorage with a schooner by her side apparently transferring supplies to her. Two Monitors have left and gone to Stono, probably to protect themselves from the Equinoctial gale. Was field officer of the day to-day. Had to inspect all the Camps of the Command. Slept in trenches last night.

[Sept.] 15th. Relieved from duty and went to the City in a row boat—arrived at 9 o'clock. Charleston has not the appearance of a besieged city. There seems to be a great deal of confidence exhibited as to the fate of the city. Ladies abound. The Promenade has almost the same appearance it had years ago. It is now truly a place of resort from which can be seen the Batteries of the Harbor and on Morris Island.

After attending to my business I went down to the walk and after perambulating took a seat on a bench and allowed my thoughts to wander back to the many happy hours that I spent, perhaps, on that very seat. What a comparison to those happy *happy* hours. There in the midst of pleasant acquaintances and dear friends, with the cup of happiness overflowing within my grasp. Now, alone. Friends all gone—scattered to the "four winds of heaven." Some cut down by the cruel fate of war in the very bloom of manhood. Oh, when will this cruel, cruel war end? When shall we again return to our pleasant homes? Then, and only then, shall we realize the loss of the many friends that have met their fate in our struggle for independence.

Quite a sad accident occurred at Battery Cheves this morning—a magazine exploded killing five men of the 12th and 29th G[eorgi]a Vol[unteers]. Poor fellows—their mangled and torn limbs could be found in every direction around the Fort. Half an arm and pieces of flesh and skull were picked up but none recognized as belonging to any particular person.

The continued firing of Fort Moultrie and our Batteries elicits but little response from the enemy. All indications, however, point to another attack and a brisk bombardment in a few days. The Ironsides appears to have finished receiving supplies. The schooner that has been lying alongside proceeded to one of the Monitors and again commenced dis-

charging. A few shots were fired by the enemy yesterday afternoon towards Fort Johnson, while throughout the day an occasional shot was fired by Batteries No. 1 and 2 at Fort Moultrie. About 4 o'clock one of the Monitors moved up and steamed around Cummings Point as if on a reconnaissance. Moultrie fired a few shots at her, checking further progress and causing her to turn back.

Fort Sumter still remains. No point connected with the defense of Charleston is of more interest to the public, not only of our own State but of the entire Confederacy, than Fort Sumter. Associated as it has been in the past with pleasant recollections and in the present with heroic deeds, it has become as it were an heirloom of our whole people, and from the hour when it fell into our hands as the first victorious offering of South Carolina to the Confederacy, to the present moment, it has been defended and protected as "the apple of our eye." At last it has been laid in ruins—its fair proportions, its noble walls, its thundering lines of guns, all demolished by the ruthless demons of war. Yet there the stately old pile still stands, proud and defiant as in her palmiest days—crushed, not conquered, wrecked but not reduced. Every foot of her massive walls written with the tributes of the foe to [the] patriotism, skill, and courage of those who have been her defenders.

[Sept.] 17th. Weather very stormy. Appearances indicate an equinoctial storm which in all probability will drive a Yankee boat or two ashore—the wind is very high. Several tents have been blown down or otherwise rendered useless. My tent fell over, consequently my bed, clothes, and bed clothing got completely saturated. Going on picket to-night. Am afraid will have a disagreeable time of it. The enemy have been very quiet to-day. No shots are fired from their batteries. Ours are still harassing them by their continued firings. It is the belief by those in authority that an attack from some point or other will be made in a few days. Our men do not show the spirit of energy that ought to be displayed upon this occasion. We have good general officers on the Island, and with troops posted at the threatened and convenient places, ought to keep the invaders from the Island. Not being well posted, am not able now to note the different encampments of the troops on the Island. At some convenient time will do so.

[Sept.] 21st. Nothing has occurred worth writing for the last two or three days. In fact, have been sick, therefore could not take notes. Our Batteries have been firing with unusual rapidity to-day.

[Sept.] 23rd. A few shell were fired by the enemy yesterday, several near Fort Johnson. Our Batteries are still firing at their works on Morris Island. Four of our Companies relieved the Charleston Bat-

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talion at Fort Sumter on the 19th. Weather has been very stormy but has cleared off, although not settled. The Yankees made their appearance in large force at Batteries Gregg and Wagner and appear to be working with considerable energy. A few shots were fired at Bat[terie]s Simkins and Haskell.

[Sept.] 24th. Gloomy weather indicates an approaching storm. Yankees quiet. A salute was fired by our Batteries in honor of the glorious victory achieved by Bragg in the West. Sumter fired thirteen guns. The Yankees fired a salute in honor of the arrival of Farragut. Went over to Charleston to-day. Everything is wretchedly dull—nothing to eat without paying starvation prices.

[Sept.] 25th. Quiet to-day—few shells sent at Fort Johnson—no damage. The firing from our Batteries to-day has been very effective. Several caissons were seen to explode in Batteries Gregg and Wagner—a horse was also killed on the beach in front of Gregg.

[Sept.] 26th. All quiet. Yankees hard at work.

[Sept.] 27th. A Monitor came up to Cummings Point to-day but did not shell. Our Batteries are still harassing the enemy at work.

[Sept.] 28th. Went to visit Sumter. Our men are hard at work preparing the Fort for another fight. The enemy commenced the firing upon the Fort again to-day. 100 shots were fired of which 48 fell in and struck the Fort, the others struck the water. The Fort was not damaged.

[Sept.] 29th. Went to Charleston. Took steamboat for Fort Johnson at 9 p.m. The Yankees resumed their fire upon Sumter and Johnson. Yesterday one negro was killed and two wounded.

Oct. 1st. [1863.] Still shelling Sumter, Johnson, and Shell P[oin]t Bat[tery]. I have just returned from the latter place. The shells are fired with great accuracy. One soldier and a negro wounded.

[Oct.] 2nd. Our Batteries shelling as usual, the Yankees replying regularly. The firing from Gadberry Hill is more rapid than that of any former day. The fire was directed on Forts Sumter, Johnson, and Battery Simkins, but principally on Sumter. From the rapidity with which the enemy fires and very heavy reports made, it is believed that the Battery on Gadberry Hill has received and mounted several new two hundred pound Parrott Guns, all the shells thrown being from guns of that size. The enemy's fire was again wild, many of the shells falling in the river.

[Oct.] 3rd. Weather cloudy and indicates a gale. The opposing Batteries still firing.

[Oct.] 4th. Had quite a severe gale last night. But two Monitors and the Ironsides are still to be seen this morning. Weather still gloomy.

[Oct.] 5th. The sun rose this morning beautifully—feel sick to-day and can't enjoy it. The same routine of Camp life.

[Oct.] 6th. No news—sick to-day—fine weather.

[Oct.] 7th. Everything is very quiet. One can scarcely realize that the Yankees are not two miles from us in large force. All eyes are now turned to Bragg near Chattanooga. His great victory is not as complete as was first represented. Nothing of importance has occurred on the "Island" for several days. The enemy's fire has been unusually slow with only an occasional shot from Bat[tery] 2 below Gadberry Hill. The silence of the Bat[tery] on Gadberry Hill is attributed to the bursting of one of the "big guns". Fort Moultrie and Batteries Cheves and Simkins, still shell the Yankee working parties at Bat[terie]s Gregg and Wagner. The fire is quite brisk and effective. The Yankees, however, resume their work as soon as the shells explode. From present appearances, the indications are that the enemy intends, when ready, to direct his heaviest fire on Fort Johnson. It is supposed by many that they are awaiting the arrival of more guns. The fleet remains quiet.

[Oct.] 8th. Everything still remains in state [of] quiet.

[Oct.] 9th. Left Camp at 7 o'clock to go on a review. The force on the Island was reviewed by Gen. Ripley—Gen. [Johnson] Hagood commanded the 1st Brigade—Gen. Tolliafero the troops—about four thousand were out. The Yanks at Morris Island are still hard at work.

[Oct.] 14th. Same old routine. Everybody is "resting upon his oar" and waiting anxiously to see what our Yankee brethren intend doing. It is supposed by many that they have sent a large part of their force to reinforce Rosecrans. The disappearance of a good number of their transports certainly indicate a movement of the kind. The works at Fort Johnson are progressing rapidly and have already attained huge dimensions and in a few days will defy the abolition army. Old Fort Sumter can now speak for herself. Doubtless she will surprise the Yanks very much when she opens those 10 inch Columbiads and Rifle Guns. There is life in the old land yet. Went to Charleston on Monday. The old city looks wretched.

[Oct.] 18th. Left Fort Johnson for Secessionville. Everything is in a bustle incident to a move.

[Oct.] 19th. Our tents arrived to-day, rained last night—got a good ducking. In consequence of last night's exposure W. L. Shaw was taken with congestion of the lungs and died in a very few hours.

[Oct.] 20th. We are at last fixed in our new Camp. Have not started picket duty yet—will have a task of it next week though. Yankees are quiet.

[Oct.] 24. Rain, rain, rain, from morn until night, making our tents more like a fish pond than a habitation for a "Confed Soldier"—we are in for the war though.

[Oct.] 25th. Rain, wind, and cold. Pleasant for poorly clad men.

[Oct.] 26th. Cold but not raining. Went on a drill on the review ground by Gen. Hagood. Going to Charleston to-morrow. This evening is again disagreeable. The weather is fearful—cold, rainy, and dismal. If you would like to appreciate a touch of camp life, just wrap yourself up in a wet sheet and patiently shiver with your feet in a mud puddle from daylight until dark. When meal time comes, put your "incisors" into a handful of parched corn, then wash the pulverized grain down with lukewarm "Sassafras tea", sweetened with yellow sugar and stirred with the index finger. You will be surprised at the "cervilian" aspect which everything will immediately assume.

The Yanks open from Gregg and Wagner to-day. The fire was concentrated chiefly at Sumter, though Forts Johnson and Moultrie, and Batteries Simkins and Cheves came in for their portion.

[Oct.] 27th. Went over to Charleston—returned in the afternoon. The Yanks fired several shots at the City—no damage done—people taking it very coolly.

[Oct.] 29th. "Go to it Boots, nobody is your dad". A heavy and incessant fire from the works off Morris Island is still going on.

[Oct.] 30th. Bombardment not as heavy this morning. In other respects everything is quiet.

[Oct.] 31st. On picket to-day opposite South Stono. Several boats came up the River and shelled the pickets furiously—did no damage—fragments fell all around me but none struck.

Nov. 1st. [1863.] Still on picket—will not be relieved till to-morrow. Looks much like rain.

Sun. Nov. 1st. Relieved this morning, fell back upon the reserve—spent the day loafing—in the afternoon went out in the creek and gathered oysters—had splendid supper.

[Nov.] 2nd. Still with the Reserves, expect to go back to Camp to-day.

[Nov.] 24th. It has been a long time since I have had an opportunity of writing up my book. Having been detailed on the 31st. ult. on an examining board, I was necessarily absent from Camp a greater part of the time. The Bombardment of Sumter is still going on and at times very vigorously. The old fort presents a still more dilapidated appearance, but strong enough to resist the shells. The City also shelled a greater part of last week with but little damage—only one casualty. Our position is being strengthened every day. Secessionville presents the appearance of a Sebastopol. The Yankees will find secession hotter there than [they] will care for. Our West line is also impregnable. The Eastern line, which extends to Battery Glenn, will prove as strong as earth generally proves—lastly but not least is our front, which is ready to meet the expected visitors at any moment. Am on a Court Martial at Clark house.

[Nov.] 25th. Quiet, ding dong life. Got the blues to-day.

[Nov.] 26th. Same old thing. Sumter getting it in style to-day. Our Batteries are annoying the Yanks a great deal. They shell Secessionville frequently. All has resulted in the killing of but one horse.

[Nov.] 27th. Cold, rainy, and of course, disagreeable—with no tent to shelter us—"oh my Country."

[Nov.] 28th. Batteries on Morris Island have been busy with Sumter all night. This morning is quite raw and disagreeable—no drill to-day.

[Nov.] 29th. Went to Charleston for the mail to-day in a pouring rain, and oh, what a surprise I met with—what a happy day I spent. The day soon fled and I had to return to Camp before dark.

[Nov.] 30th. Arrived from Charleston last night wet and splashed up with mud from head to foot. Clear but cold as the devil—splendid day for young ducks. Yankees not troubling us but giving the old Fort thunder. Went on inspection this morning. Got orders to move to Secessionville. Got permit to go to Charleston for thirty six hours. Walked to the General and got my papers approved and walked down to Battery Glover—took a boat for the city.

Dec. 3rd. [1863.] Had a delightful time in Charleston—can hardly resign myself to Camp life. Appointed on the Board of Ex[aminers] again today. Will go to town again tomorrow night.

[Dec.] 4th. Went to the City last night—spent a *Happy* evening. Was to return to Camp before morning but failed—had to return home and wait until morning.

[Dec.] 5th. Very quiet—no firing at all.

[Dec.] 6th. Nothing worthy of notice.

[Dec.] 7th. Same old thing.

[Dec.] 10th. Today is Thanksgiving day—went over to Charleston.

[Dec.] 11th. Spent last night in Charleston. Sumter caught fire to-day. Some ammunition was destroyed, which resulted in the killing and wounding of a good many men. The Yankees opened a terrific fire from Morris Island upon the Fort, to which our Batteries on James Island and Sullivan Island replied with vigor.

[Dec.] 12th. On court martial to-day—raining like thunder. Left for picket. Miserable weather for outpost duties.

[Dec.] 14th. Still on picket. Went to look at the pannel today. Weather clear but cold.

[Dec.] 15th. Have not been relieved yet. All quiet on the lines. Heavy firing in the direction today.

Nothing occurred worthy of notice since writing last.

Feb. 18th. [1864.] Attended Dr. Black's wedding.

[Feb.] 19th. Returned from Barnwell and spent the night in Charleston.

[Feb.] 20th. Returned to Camp today and found the Regt. under marching orders from Lake City.

[Feb.] 21st. Left Camp for the C[h]arleston S[avannah] Rd. about 12 P.M. Spent the day there and took the train about 8 P.M. Went over to Charleston for a few minutes; called on some young ladies, who, although comparative strangers to me, gave me a kiss which they were pleased to term a soldier's privilege.

[Feb.] 22nd. Arrived at Savannah at 4½ p.m. Passed through the city with colors flying and band playing. Streets crowded with ladies. Took the Albany and Gulf R.R. at 9 p.m.

[Feb.] 23rd. Arrived at Valdosta, Ga., at 3 p.m. where we got off and took the road across the country for Madison, Fla. We found the ladies of Valdosta very kind—had invitations to dance, etc. Took the line of march at 6 o'clock. Stopped at Clarksville at 10 p.m.

[Feb.] 24th. Got breakfast and took the road again. Arrived at Madison, Fla., at six p.m.; crossing the Withlacoochie River on our route. The people of Madison, as well as those on the road, were exceedingly kind and very patriotic. The country being thickly settled, we saw a

great many; on arriving at Madison, the ladies immediately came out and invited us all to supper. One lady alone fed at least fifty.

[Feb.] 25th. Marched down to the depot to take the train for Lake City. The ladies crowded down to see our departure. We waited there all day. I therefore took the opportunity of making many acquaintances.

[Feb.] 26th. Have not left Madison yet. The train upon which we were to have gone was kept waiting the arrival of General Beauregard who is expected to arrive.

[Feb.] 27th. Am still at Madison. The regiment left yesterday evening. Not having room, I, with some others, remained. Went out visiting last night and spent a pleasant evening. We received numerous invitations to spend the evening and to take meals, and we generally availed ourselves of them. We slept out last night. Not being accustomed to sleeping on feather beds, we didn't sleep as sweetly as one would suppose.

[Feb.] 28th. Took the train about two o'clock after bidding a sad farewell to the kind ladies of Madison, and arrived at Lake City about 5 o'clock p.m., which place we left at 10 and arrived at the camp next day at 7 a.m. On our way we passed several villages etc. and Baldwin about 8 miles—also the battlefield of the 20th inst., and several Yankee camp grounds. The battle field presented an awful appearance. The Yankees evidently destroyed an enormous quantity of stores, ammunition, etc. We are drawn up in line of battle as I write, and from the appearance of everything, they must expect an attack. We have quite a strong force and as the Yanks are away from their gunboats, we have no apprehension.

[Feb.] 29th. No attack yet. Weather good but fare bad. My breakfast lies before me spread on a palmetto leaf—consisting of a piece of dry corn bread and bacon—quite different from the fare we received from the kind people of Madison. We are perfectly content to eat what we can get. Our only desire is to drive the Yankees from the soil of Florida. The troops of this army are to be mustered today.

Mar. 1st. [1864.] All quiet along the lines today. About 10 o'clock orders arrived for our Regiment to report to Col. Zachary at 7 o'clock tomorrow. The men here ordered to prepare one day's rations.

[Mar.] 2nd. Marched towards Jacksonville today and drove the enemy's picket in. Met the enemy at Cedar Creek—fought and drove them from the field. The fight was pretty severe. Our loss was about 18 or 20—none from my company. Our force engaged consisted of the

27th Ga., 5th Ga. Cav[alry], 2nd Fla. Bat., and our Reg[iment], also a section of Cheatham Art[illery] under command of Col. Zachary. Our Reg[iment] entered the field with "The Ladies of Madison" as their battle cry. Have not heard from South Carolina since we left. I'm wondering what is going on there.

[Mar.] 3rd. Gen. Beauregard passed the lines today. It is supposed that he intends taking the field in person as he has with him his tents, etc. Good news from Dalton—the enemy has been repelled. It is reported that the Yanks are leaving Jacksonville—don't believe it though.

[Mar.] 4th. Quite heavy firing in the direction of Jacksonville to-day—probably a salute in honor of the inauguration of President Lincoln. No news today. Have not heard a word from home yet. The 26th Va. arrived last night. Another Regt. has just passed going to the left.

[Mar.] 5th. Nothing stirring. False alarm about 8 o'clock last night—had the whole line under arms. Slept out last night. Don't know the cause of the alarm.

[Mar.] 6th. Beauregard returned to Charleston yesterday. Maj. Gen. [James Patton] Anderson assumed command of the Army of Fla. Two Co[mpanie]s of our Regiment arrived from Suwanee River to-day. The 26 V[irgini]a Regt. has been transferred to our Brigade in lieu of the 59 V[irgini]a which has been transferred to [illegible] Brigade.

[Mar.] 7th. Quiet to-day. Rations bad and scarce. Killed a calf to-day. 18th S. C. Regt. sent to the front.

[Mar.] 8th. Report is current that our Army has again been successful at [illegible]. Going to Lake City to-day. 26th V[irgini]a Regt. ordered to Baldwin, thence to a point on the St. Johns. Baldwin is about eight miles from this point and at one time was in the possession of the Yankees, who fortified and entrenched it but had to leave it after destroying a large amount of stores, etc.

[Mar.] 9th. Arrived at Lake City about 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon—put up at one of its hotels, if it can be so called. It has the appearance of a large cotton house on one side and a dry goods store on the other—with the smell of a hospital—fare miserable and price terrible. It is kept (or pretended to be) by an old lady who would not oblige you for anything less than \$3.00—old devil. Upon the whole, the city of Lake City is an abominable, nasty little place. Can't be compared to Madison. Met Dr. Black this afternoon.

[Mar.] 10th. Stormy weather this morning.

[Mar.] 11th. Weather still disagreeable. Applied for furlough to-day for 20 days.

[Mar.] 12th. Going to Lake City again.

[Mar.] 13th. Arrived at Lake City last night—intended going to Madison but on account of the heavy rains, the trestle at Columbus has been washed away—so will have to remain here until tomorrow, much to my regret. Am putting up at a private home—could get no rooms at the hotel. Went to Church. All the churches in the city have been turned into hospitals. Had preaching under trees—camp style.

[Mar.] 14th. Returned to Camp Milton—found the Regt had moved over the R[ail] R[oad]. Five Yankee deserters came into our lines to-day. They are constantly arriving. Made the acquaintance of a pretty girl at Sanderson to-day. Beauregard is still with us but not in command. Taliaferro has returned to South Carolina. He takes command of Charleston. Have not heard from home yet, although I have been out here nearly a month. Surely they must have written.

[Mar.] 15th. Quiet.

[Mar.] 16th. Started to build a cabin to-day. Have been taking the weather here-to-fore. I am afraid the energy I display in putting up my house predicts a move.

[Mar.] 17th. As I thought, our Regt. moves to-day to Baldwin. I will be left behind to survey swamps etc.

[Mar.] 18th. Up to my waist in water and mud all day.

[Mar.] 19th. Nothing to do. Went to Lake City—passed the Regt on my way. Got a letter from home—cheering, indeed it was.

[Mar.] 20th. To-day is Sunday and I and Wm Wilson are by ourselves with nothing to do. No church to go to. It is a most magnificent morning. Returned from Lake City yesterday afternoon.

[Mar.] 21st. Nothing to do. Beauregard went off last night. Rainy weather. Three comp[anie]s returned from Baldwin.

[Mar.] 22nd. Rainy weather—cold and disagreeable.

April 20th. [1864.] My poor diary so long neglected. I was taken sick one month ago to-day and have not been able to do anything since. Nothing very strange occurred, though, during my sickness that was worthy of note. Deserters came in every night almost—sometimes four or five at a time, bringing their horses and equipment with them. Gen. Anderson is very strict and has rendered himself very unpopular with the men. Was appointed Inspector General on Brig. Harrison's staff on

the 17th. We received orders to prepare three days cooked rations and hold ourselves in readiness to march. About dark, we took the train for Lake City—arrived there about 8 o'clock next day. At 6 o'clock in the afternoon took the train for Madison. Train ran off the track—only one man hurt. While putting the cars on the track, a tree fell upon one of our lieutenants, mortally wounding him.

We arrived at Madison about 1 a. m. and left at 2 p.m. for Quitman, Ga., a distance of 26 miles across the country. The ladies in Madison were very pressing in their invitations for me to stay with them until I sufficiently recovered from my sickness to attend to my duties, but I preferred remaining with the regt., so I hobbled into an ambulance and went on to Quitman, where we arrived 24 hours after we left Madison. Quitman is a town on the A[lbany] & G[ulf] R[ail] R[oad]—plenty of young ladies and, of course, very lively. They all invited me to stay there until I got strong enough to travel. I refused. They spoke of getting up a Ball for our Regt. on Monday night. Troops are something new to them. Our Regt. is the second one they ever saw, and as for our Band, it struck them with surprise and amazement, from which I am afraid they will never recover.

I got the Surgeon to send me on in advance of the Regt. to Charleston (where the Regt. is destined). I took the A[lbany] & G[ulf] R. R. at 2 a.m. Passed some very pretty towns on the way—principal one is called Valdosta, consisting of about 3 or 4 hundred inhabitants. Arrived at Savannah at 4 o'clock p.m. Spent the night there and took the train at 7 a.m., for Charleston, at which place I arrived at 11:30 p.m. Am now waiting for the arrival of the Regiment.

*(To be continued)*

## THE CALHOUN-PRESTON FEUD, 1836-1842 \*

By ERNEST M. LANDER, JR.  
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In November 1833, the General Assembly of South Carolina elected William Campbell Preston to the United States Senate to complete the unexpired term of Stephen D. Miller, resigned. Three years later the General Assembly elected Preston to a regular six-year term. From 1833 until September 1837, Preston and the senior senator from South Carolina, John C. Calhoun, apparently worked in harmony on the major issues of the day, but their ways parted when Calhoun suddenly announced his support of the subtreasury bill espoused by President Martin Van Buren. Prior to that time Van Buren had been generally disliked in South Carolina because of his association with Andrew Jackson. Calhoun's unexpected shift provoked a relentless feud between the two South Carolina senators that continued until Preston resigned his Senate seat in November 1842, thoroughly repudiated by his constituents. The quarrel not only blighted Senator Preston's promising career, but it paralleled and contributed to the extinction of the Whig Party in South Carolina.

A Virginian by birth but a longtime resident of Columbia, South Carolina, William C. Preston was a man of good breeding and varied talents. An able lawyer, possessed of a well-rounded classical learning and skilled in oratory, he was soon widely known throughout South Carolina. Also to his credit politically were his and his brother John's marriages into prominent South Carolina families. It was Preston's work in the nullification controversy that won him a seat in the United States Senate at the age of thirty-eight. There his forensic ability immediately attracted nationwide attention. Contemporaries such as John Quincy Adams, Philip Hone, and James Buchanan praised his elocution and emotional appeal to audiences, while Rufus Wilson wrote: "Not a few claim him as the most finished orator the South has ever produced." On the other hand, Calhoun, Van Buren, and some others thought that Preston's talents were overrated. Nevertheless, Preston was a great favorite of the Senate galleries.<sup>1</sup>

\* This paper was read at a meeting of the Southern Historical Association in Durham, North Carolina, Nov. 17, 1956.

<sup>1</sup> Charles F. Adams, ed., *Memoirs of John Quincy Adams* . . . (12 vols., Philadelphia, 1874-1877), X, 396; Allan Nevins, ed., *The Diary of Philip Hone, 1829-1851* (2 vols., New York, 1927), II, 524-25; *Diary of Louise Penelope Davis*

The first inkling of ill feeling between Calhoun and Preston appeared during the campaign of 1836. Preston was up for re-election to the Senate. It was rumored that the two senators were about to have a rupture, that Calhoun was suspicious of Preston, and that Preston was inclined to support Van Buren. Calhoun left no record of the impending rift, and Preston tried to pass it off as lightly as possible.<sup>2</sup>

Unfortunately for Preston, his character and his actions easily aroused suspicions about his motives. His friend the elderly Dr. Thomas Cooper thought him to be "too much non committal; too Van Beurenish" for people to trust. James H. Hammond's brother warned that "suspicions of [Preston's] integrity (as a Politician) have been generally awakened." Several years later Pierce Butler wrote that Preston was insincere, heartless, deceitful, and intriguing. Butler said that Preston was not a bad man and that he went to church, but "[he] is notorious all his life—for sacrificing old friends—for new allies—never does an act—political or personal—without a personal purpose."<sup>3</sup>

In September 1837, President Van Buren called Congress into special session to consider the economic ills lately befallen the nation. In describing the ensuing congressional fight, Charles M. Wiltse points out that the real division lay between those who felt that the way to economic recovery was through a national bank and those who did not. The opponents of a national bank were split between those who wished to continue Jackson's system of depository banks and those who favored the

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Preston (Mrs. W. C. Preston), (MS. in South Caroliniana Library, Columbia, S. C.); Rufus R. Wilson, *Washington the Capital City* . . . (2 vols., Philadelphia, 1901), I, 294; Martin Van Buren to John Van Buren, Jan. 29, 1834, Van Buren Papers (Division of Manuscripts, Library of Congress); Diary of Benjamin F. Perry, Sept. 2, 1840 (MS. in Southern Historical Collection, Chapel Hill, N. C.); Calhoun to A. Burt, Aug. 20, 1840, J. Franklin Jameson, ed., *Correspondence of John C. Calhoun*. Annual Report of the American Historical Association for the Year 1899. Vol. II (Washington, 1900), 463-64.

<sup>2</sup> Pierce Butler to J. H. Hammond, Oct. 30, 1836, Jan. 13, 1837; Waddy Thompson to Hammond, Feb. 23, 1837; Preston to Hammond, Jan. 4, 1837, James H. Hammond Papers (Division of Manuscripts, Library of Congress); *Charleston Courier*, Dec. 1, 1837.

<sup>3</sup> Cooper to Nicholas Biddle, May 14, 1837, Nicholas Biddle Papers (Division of Manuscripts, Library of Congress); M. C. M. Hammond to J. H. Hammond, Nov. 23, 1836, Hammond Papers; Butler to Waddy Thompson, April 23, 1841, Waddy Thompson Papers (Division of Manuscripts, Library of Congress). E. W. Johnston, a prominent Columbia lawyer, felt that Preston's greatest fault was laziness, which had mastered his ambition. Johnston held that Preston's little finger had "more capacity in it, more real ability, more wisdom than the whole bodies of a dozen Calhouns and Clays." To Hammond, March 24, 1836, Hammond Papers.

subtreasury scheme, proposed in 1834 by William Gordon of Virginia. Calhoun believed the Whig Party, supporter of a national bank, was irrevocably committed to consolidation of the national government. He in turn favored the subtreasury. To this scheme Van Buren also adhered, having come over to a state rights viewpoint in an attempt to erect a new North-South alliance that would oppose Clay and Harrison in the West.<sup>4</sup> The subtreasury bill was bitterly contested and blocked twice in the House before Van Buren emerged victorious in the summer of 1840.

During the September debate on subtreasury Calhoun's and Preston's divergent positions became clearly revealed. Calhoun anticipated the division, and he likewise realized that some of the House members from South Carolina would vote against subtreasury. Once the issue was joined, Calhoun brought down upon himself the wrath of the Whigs, who had counted on his allegiance. Unworried, he wrote: "As I acted with them to put down executive usurpation on Congress, I now act with the opposite side to repel theirs on the State." He regretted, however, that Preston had not gone along with him. "I think both he and Gnl [Waddy] Thompson have acted badly, but I leave it to them and their constituents."<sup>5</sup>

Preston, too, foresaw the rift between Calhoun and himself over subtreasury. At the end of the special session he wrote Willie P. Mangum that he was happy that he had had no personal collision with Calhoun during the debate. However, but for Calhoun's adherence to the subtreasury plan, Preston said he would pronounce it to be the "most monstrous compound of fraud and folly ever attempted to be palmed upon a people."<sup>6</sup>

Preston believed that Calhoun considered Van Buren defunct and hoped to succeed him as the party leader. And Preston further stated that Calhoun's support of Van Buren "has kept him alive and protracted his existence until I fear he will live long enough to kill my colleague." For Calhoun's political calculations Preston blamed Duff Green.<sup>7</sup>

When the House of Representatives voted 120 to 107 to postpone action on subtreasury, only Robert Barnwell Rhett and Francis W. Pickens of the South Carolina nine-man delegation favored the measure. The issue did not provide immediate division of the South Carolina

<sup>4</sup> Charles M. Wiltse, *John C. Calhoun, Nullifier, 1829-1839* (New York, 1949), pp. 344-50.

<sup>5</sup> Calhoun to James Edward Calhoun, Sept. 7, 1837; Calhoun to Anna Maria Calhoun, Sept. 30, 1837, *Calhoun Correspondence*, 377-80.

<sup>6</sup> To Willie P. Mangum, Oct. 4, 1837 (photostat in South Caroliniana Library).

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

press. At first editorials were restrained; then they became sharper. By the end of October the line was being drawn. Senator Preston's chief support came from the Columbia *Telescope*, whose editor, A. S. Johnston, was his kinsman, and from the Charleston *Courier*, a paper with commercial and Whig leanings. Senator Calhoun's ablest defender was the highly influential Charleston *Mercury*. Its lead was followed by many small weekly papers.<sup>8</sup>

Also in the fall of 1837 division arose among the state's other political leaders. Preston was backed by James L. Petigru, Langdon Cheves, former Governor James Hamilton, Jr., and the majority of the South Carolina delegation in Congress. Ex-Governor Robert Y. Hayne and Governor Pierce Butler seemed inclined toward Preston's position. Petigru believed the state would oppose Calhoun on subtreasury, and Dr. Thomas Cooper estimated that three-fourths of the state's businessmen quietly favored a national bank. It is little wonder that Preston was sanguine over his position. On the other hand, the *Mercury* warned: "... the vote of our Delegation for postponement was no unerring index of their opposition to the separation. We know facts which show that more than one who so voted is undecided."<sup>9</sup>

However, Preston was too cautious and slow. He advised his chief henchman, Congressman Waddy Thompson, not to take the stump. Preston said he was "earnestly inclined to preserve both political and personal relations with everybody."<sup>10</sup> Yet, at the same time some of his supporters lashed out at Richard Crallé's paper, *The Reformer*, for criticising Preston's anti-subtreasury stand.

For his part, Calhoun believed that the attack against *The Reformer* was indirectly aimed at him. He persuaded Crallé to take a more temperate stand, and in early November published a complete explanation of his views on subtreasury. This exposition was widely circulated throughout the state and was apparently influential in winning public support to his position.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Charleston *Mercury*, Sept. 12, 14, 20, Oct. 4-7, 24, 1837; Charleston *Courier*, Sept. 19, Nov. 22-25, 1837; Pendleton *Messenger*, Sept. 29, Nov. 3, 1837.

<sup>9</sup> T. D. Jervy, *Robert R. Hayne and His Times* (New York, 1909), p. 446; Wiltse, *Calhoun, Nullifier*, p. 359; Charleston *Courier*, Nov. 15, 1837; Cooper to Biddle, Oct. 20, 1837, Biddle Papers; Pendleton *Messenger*, Nov. 3, 1837, quoting Charleston *Mercury* [n. d].

<sup>10</sup> Preston to Thompson [Oct. or Nov.] 1837 (photostat in South Caroliniana Library).

<sup>11</sup> *The Reformer* editorial reprinted in Charleston *Mercury*, Oct. 26, 1837; Calhoun to Duff Green, Oct. 27, 1837, *Calhoun Correspondence*, 383-84; Calhoun to J. Bauskett and others, Nov. 3, 1837. This letter appeared in the Charleston *Courier*, Nov. 23, 1837, and in many other papers throughout the state.

When the state legislature convened in late November 1837, most of the South Carolina congressmen were also present, including the two senators. There was much behind-the-scenes jockeying, and the battle was quickly joined when C. G. Memminger introduced resolutions in the lower chamber favoring subtreasury and opposing a national bank. A heated debate lasted for several days, but Calhoun's partisans were so well organized that they easily overwhelmed the anti-subtreasury group. Only three members of the upper house, including former Governor James Hamilton, Jr., voted against Memminger's resolution. James L. Petigru complained: "The unanimity of the Legislature and of the people is unnatural." The Calhoun forces threw a crumb to the Preston adherents in the form of an accompanying resolution disclaiming any intent to censure the anti-subtreasury opposition. Calhoun, himself, jubilantly confided to daughter Anna Maria that "the action of our State in the Divorce [subtreasury] has made a deep impression out of the State, and will do much to rally the South on our position. It has added much to my strength, and means of saving the country."<sup>12</sup>

Considerably later a pro-Preston writer declared in a post-mortem that all the great powers of Calhoun's gigantic mind had been employed to vindicate his conduct and win back the state to his support. Members of the legislature had been "dragooned for their refractoriness" by a political clique that assumed to govern South Carolina. The legislators had been "persuaded and menaced, caressed and buffeted alternately," while congressmen hung around the lobbies "scenting out the path which that body might pursue."<sup>13</sup>

The political clique to which the editor referred was the so-called Rhett-Elmore machine, headed by Congressman Robert Barnwell Rhett, later a rabid secessionist, who had supported subtreasury in the special congressional session, and by Congressman Franklin H. Elmore, a lawyer-planter-businessman of considerable wealth and talent, who had been won over to subtreasury afterwards. Their respective brothers,

<sup>12</sup> Petigru to H. S. Legaré, Dec. 17, 1837, in J. P. Carson, *Life, Letters and Speeches of James Louis Petigru* . . . (Washington, 1920), p. 193; A. Patterson to Hammond, Nov. 23, 1837; F. H. Elmore to Hammond, Dec. 11, 1837, Hammond Papers; Charleston *Courier*, Dec. 12, 18, 1837; Calhoun to Anna Maria Calhoun, Dec. 24, 1837, Calhoun Papers (Clemson College Library, Clemson, S. C.).

<sup>13</sup> Columbia *Southern Chronicle*, Sept. 15, 1841. As a by-product of the controversy Governor Butler, trying to steer a neutral course, was accused of being responsible for the Preston's group's "treason again Calhoun." Butler privately asserted that he did not "care one damn for them both & wd not turn on my heels to elevate or destroy them both." To Hammond, Dec. 27, 1837, Hammond Papers.

Albert and James Rhett and Benjamin T. Elmore, served in the state legislature. Also in the clan was John A. Stuart, editor of the *Charleston Mercury*. Stuart had married a sister of the Rhett, while Albert Rhett had married a sister of the Elmores. Besides the support of the Rhett-Elmore clique, Calhoun was backed by his relatives Patrick Noble, Francis W. Pickens, and Armistead Burt and by Joel R. Poinsett. It should not be inferred, however, that the entire group always worked in harmony.<sup>14</sup>

Shortly after Congress opened its session in December 1837, Calhoun found Preston cooperating with Henry Clay. He described his colleague's actions as "ungenerous and unpatriotic" but vowed he would not quarrel publicly with him. Calhoun believed the younger senator to be totally alienated "without any act of mine to justify it."<sup>15</sup>

The occasion of Calhoun's increased resentment grew out of his six pro-slavery resolutions introduced in the Senate, December 27. The first four were adopted, but Clay blocked the fifth, respecting slavery in the District of Columbia, with a substitute resolution that restricted the issue. Preston came to Clay's assistance on the fifth and then moved successfully to table Calhoun's sixth, concerning slavery in Texas. Preston had already advised the Senate that he intended to present resolutions for the annexation of Texas. Calhoun resented this interference. In his stead, Preston foresaw a "long and ardent struggle" in which Calhoun would see among his adversaries "the familiar faces of those gallant gentlemen who for ten years past have fought under his banner." Preston concluded that Calhoun's course had been "disastrous to his friends," and Calhoun's position was "most mournful." Mrs. Preston thought Calhoun was merely trying to steal the lead from her husband on a popular issue; that is, slavery.<sup>16</sup>

During the winter of 1838 there was comment in South Carolina that the Preston-Calhoun quarrel was embarrassing to their mutual friends and injurious to the state. F. H. Elmore and James H. Hammond unsuccessfully tried to mediate the dispute. Congressman Francis Pickens believed that Preston, banking on a Whig victory, had allied himself

<sup>14</sup> The Rhett-Elmore clan was weakened by the deaths of Benjamin Elmore in 1841 and Albert Rhett in 1843. Furthermore, I. E. Holmes defeated James Rhett's bid for Congress in 1843.

<sup>15</sup> Calhoun to A. Burt, Jan. 24, 1838, *Calhoun Correspondence*, 388-90.

<sup>16</sup> Wiltse, *Calhoun, Nullifier*, pp. 371-73; Diary of Mrs. Preston, Jan. 23, [1838]; Preston to John Tyler, Dec. 30, 1837, in L. G. Tyler, *The Letters and Times of the Tylers* (2 vols., Richmond, 1884), I, 586.

with Clay and was trying to build up Clay in the South.<sup>17</sup> At the same time Preston was embarrassed to find himself supported by a Washington paper for vice-president on a Clay ticket. Mrs. Preston, much worried, told Clay that her husband would be killed politically in South Carolina by having his name linked with Clay's on the Whig ticket. Unfortunately for Preston, this report was published by the *Mercury* just as the state legislature convened in special session, May 28, to consider matters not connected with subtreasury.<sup>18</sup>

In his address to the legislature Governor Pierce Butler did not mention subtreasury, but resolutions on the subject were immediately introduced. In essence they advocated the establishment of the subtreasury, the separation of the national government from all banks, and the notification of the state's congressional delegation of the same. The resolutions were the work of a Rhett-Elmore legislative caucus, which was engineered by Congressmen Robert B. Rhett and F. H. Elmore. They did not expect to influence Preston and Congressman Waddy Thompson, but they apparently hoped to prod Congressmen John Campbell and Hugh Swinton Legaré into line. As events turned out, the subtreasury resolutions passed both houses by large majorities. The minority, headed by Petigru and Hamilton, helplessly filed a dissenting report, especially criticising the practice of instructing congressmen.<sup>19</sup>

As the subtreasury squabble was mainly among former Nullifiers, the old Union Party group seized the opportunity to increase their political power. They threw their support to Calhoun and set up a newspaper in Columbia as a rival to the *Telescope*, the Preston organ.<sup>20</sup> Thus began the rapprochement between the Union Party and the Calhoun-Rhett-Elmore faction of the Nullifiers. It led to the election of Unionist John P. Richardson as governor in 1840.

On June 25 the subtreasury bill was defeated in the national House of Representatives for a second time, with Thompson, Legaré, and Campbell of the South Carolina delegation voting against it. A few days later

<sup>17</sup> Pickens to Hammond, Feb. 9, 1838; Hammond to F. H. Elmore, March 22, 1838; Elmore to Hammond, April 2, 1838, Hammond Papers; J. P. Richardson to J. L. Manning, Feb. 19, 1838, Williams-Chesnut-Manning Papers (Southern Historical Collection).

<sup>18</sup> Diary of Mrs. Preston [n.d.]; Preston to W. P. Mangum, April 7, 1838 (photostat in South Caroliniana Library); Charleston *Mercury*, May 28, 1838.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, May 28, June 5, 13, 18, 25, July 6, 10, 1838; Edgefield *Advertiser*, June 14, 1838; Columbia *Telescope*, June 2, 1838; Diary of Mrs. Preston [n.d.]; Butler to Hammond, June 16, 1838, Hammond Papers.

<sup>20</sup> John Chesnut to James Chesnut, May 30, 1838, Williams-Chesnut-Manning Papers.

many Fourth of July celebrations throughout the state witnessed numerous toasts of condemnation for the three congressmen and for Senator Preston. The latter was vilified as an "alien by birth," "a traitor to the state," and an associate of Clay's "dirty gang." He was called upon to repent or perish.<sup>21</sup> This popular outcry combined with the earlier legislative resolutions signified that the junior senator's influence had been thoroughly undermined.

In an effort to rally sentiment behind Preston his Richland District friends gave a barbecue in his honor July 28. Other prominent politicians were invited but for various reasons most of them were absent. Calhoun's refusal was curt: he would not attend a dinner in honor of a man whose course he disapproved. The rally, however, seems to have generated very little pro-Preston sentiment. The *Mercury* reported that Albert Rhett drew as much applause for his subtreasury toast as did Senator Preston for his lengthy speech. Calhoun simply called the barbecue a "great failure."<sup>22</sup>

As the fall elections approached, the South Carolina congressional fight centered on three men: Waddy Thompson, of the Greenville-Pendleton region, Hugh S. Legaré, representing the Charleston area, and John Campbell, from the Pee Dee. These three anti-subtreasury congressmen were marked for slaughter by the Calhoun-Rhett-Elmore forces, further strengthened by the announced support of Chancellor William Harper and former Governor George McDuffie.<sup>23</sup>

Calhoun was particularly anxious to defeat Thompson, a Whig in whose congressional district he lived. He accused Thompson—with Preston—of having done "much mischief—more than they ever can repair, if they were to live 100 years." Early in July Tandy Walker of Greenville decided to run against Thompson. Calhoun was optimistic of Walker's success, especially should the Greenville *Mountaineer* assist him. Nevertheless, within a few weeks Calhoun's mood changed. He reluctantly admitted that Walker was no match for Thompson in stump speaking. Walker withdrew from the race, and Calhoun's hopes rose again when General J. N. Whitner entered the contest. Calhoun believed that Thompson's advantage would be offset by Whitner's having "the

<sup>21</sup> Charleston *Mercury*, July 7, 15-20, 1838; Columbia *Telescope*, July 7, 21, 1838; Edgefield *Advertiser*, August 9, 1838; Pendleton *Messenger*, June 29, July 13, 1838.

<sup>22</sup> Niles' *Register*, LIV (Aug. 18, 1838), 392; Charleston *Mercury*, Aug. 1, 1838; Pendleton *Messenger*, Aug. 10, 24, 1838; Calhoun to Duff Green, Aug. 10, 1838, *Calhoun Correspondence*, 398.

<sup>23</sup> Pendleton *Messenger*, July 27, 1838; Edgefield *Advertiser*, Aug. 30, 1838.

cause" and "the intelligence of the district" with him. As the campaign progressed, Calhoun imagined that Thompson was "giving ground daily." But much to the senator's mortification Thompson was re-elected by a large majority. Calhoun then admitted that Whitner had entered the race too late, for Thompson had visited all the militia musters "and told his own story without opposition, or contradiction."<sup>24</sup>

In Charleston Joel R. Poinsett, the Rhett-Elmore machine, and Calhoun collaborated to support Isaac E. Holmes for Congress in place of Legaré. After Legaré's defeat, the *Columbia Telescope* stated that he had supported Van Buren on every issue except that of subtreasury, about which he had doubts. Calhoun had therefore "commanded his menials to execute the doubter." Calhoun later admitted that he had viewed Legaré's defeat as "almost indispensable" for the purpose of future unity within the state whenever such questions as abolition arose. Albeit, he added: "I certainly never expected that my name should ever be connected with any communication he [Poinsett] might make to his friends." Moreover, Calhoun denied any personal collaboration with the national administration.<sup>25</sup>

Although Calhoun suffered defeat in his own district, after the fall elections of 1838 were over, he looked upon public opinion as fully settled on his side. He expected Clay's demise and with it the "complete prostration" of Preston, Thompson, and other Clay adherents in South Carolina. Apparently, he desired no further agitation on subtreasury in the General Assembly. His friends in the lower house felt otherwise and with near unanimity again endorsed subtreasury and condemned a national bank.<sup>26</sup>

As Congress convened in December 1838, Preston began undercover work for Clay's candidacy for president on the Whig ticket in 1840. In March 1839, he dropped the mask when he addressed a Whig meeting in Philadelphia. There he called for Whig Party unity and praised Clay's virtues as a party leader. In view of previous public denials that he favored Clay, Preston's Philadelphia speech immediately evoked a tirade

<sup>24</sup> Calhoun to James Edward Calhoun, April 21, to Poinsett, July 4, to Duff Green, Aug. 10, Oct. 11, to R. B. Rhett, Sept. 13, 1838, *Calhoun Correspondence*, 395-400, 405-06; Pendleton *Messenger*, Aug. 31, 1838.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 19, 26, 1838; *Columbia Telescope*, Oct. 27, 1838; Calhoun to Dr. Danall (?), Oct. 26, 1838, *Calhoun Correspondence*, 406-10. John Campbell survived the attempted purge in a close contest, but he did not break with the administration nor did he later join the Whig ranks.

<sup>26</sup> Pendleton *Messenger*, Dec. 21, 1838; Calhoun to A. Burt, Nov. 17, 1838; *Calhoun Correspondence*, 416-18.

of abuse from the opposition press in South Carolina. It was suggested that Preston's motive was purely for personal gain in event of a Clay victory.<sup>27</sup>

In the midst of this buffeting came a report that Preston had advised Clay to soften a proposed speech against abolition. One editor scornfully asked: "Can any South Carolinian read without indignation that a Senator from this State could thus place the vital interests of the South in the balance with the petty plans of an office seeking clique and deliberately suggest the expediency of sacrificing our safety to the chance of abolition support?"<sup>28</sup>

Preston strenuously protested against this new wave of criticism. He asserted that the Philadelphia papers had misquoted him, that he had merely told Clay the speech might be offensive to the "ultras" of both parties. Preston apparently became so anxious to soften the clamor that he headed off a small Clay rally proposed at the Charleston Commercial Convention in April lest the entire meeting be labeled a Clay conspiracy.<sup>29</sup> The uproar soon subsided, and during the summer and fall of 1839 the press was silent about Preston's support of Clay. On November 27 the editor of the Columbia *Telescope* announced that his paper was suspending publication. Thus collapsed Preston's most sedulous backer and the only newspaper in South Carolina endorsing Clay's candidacy. When the Whig Convention met in Harrisburg the following month, Preston remained in Columbia.<sup>30</sup>

The South Carolina governor's race of 1840 clearly pointed up the low level to which Senator Preston's political fortunes had sagged. The chief contender for the governorship was Unionist John P. Richardson, supported by the Rhett-Elmore faction. Congressman Francis W. Pickens, currently feuding with the Rhetts, persuaded ex-Congressman James H. Hammond to enter the race. A weak third candidate in the contest was Judge David Johnson, another Union Party leader.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>27</sup> Preston to Henry Bowyer, Jan. 11, 1839, Preston Family Papers (Division of Manuscripts, Library of Congress); *Niles' Register*, LV (March 23, 1839), 55; *Charleston Courier*, March 29, 1839; *Charleston Mercury*, March 18, 21, 1839; *Pendleton Messenger*, March 29, 1839.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>29</sup> *Charleston Mercury*, April 3, 4, May 7, 1839; *Charleston Courier*, April 22, 1839. Even the *Mercury* strangely commended Preston for his "patriotism" in blocking the Clay demonstration. May 11, 1839.

<sup>30</sup> *Pendleton Messenger*, Dec. 6, 1839; *Charleston Courier*, Dec. 7, 1839.

<sup>31</sup> J. H. Hammond to Marcellus Hammond, Aug. 6, 1839; Pickens to J. H. Hammond, Dec. 15, 1839, Hammond Papers.

Hammond tried his best to secure Calhoun's public endorsement, but to no avail. His friend Congressman Sampson Butler declared that the Rhett-Elmore faction hated Calhoun but did not dare denounce him. He further stated that Calhoun did not agree with the Rhetts and Elmores, "but like all politicians, he dont want to break with them, if he can avoid it."<sup>32</sup>

Actually, Calhoun regretted Hammond's entry into the race, for he preferred to support Richardson in an effort to close ranks between his wing of the Nullifiers and the Union Party completely. Such a move he believed would neutralize Preston, Thompson and their handful of followers. Consequently, Calhoun played no active part in the canvas.<sup>33</sup>

While seeking Calhoun's support, Hammond shied away from Preston. Nevertheless, the Charleston *Mercury* circulated a report that the Clay-Preston faction had projected Hammond into the race in order to divide the Nullifiers and throw the election to Judge Johnson. This charge Hammond and Johnson both repeatedly and vigorously denied. But when the election was over and Hammond surveyed the wreckage, he attributed his defeat in part to the ill-founded rumor that he had been "bought out" by the Preston faction.<sup>34</sup>

Preston took no part in the contest, although he did prefer Hammond or Judge Johnson to Richardson. He considered that latter a "mere man of straw stuffed by Calhoun," a "booby" in fact. Preston's interest was centered on the presidential contest rather than the South Carolina governor's race. He attended a Whig conclave in Baltimore, May 4, at which time he promised to work for Harrison's election. Returning to South Carolina he was soon praising the Whig candidate at every opportunity, and throughout the summer months of 1840 spoke in Georgia, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, and possibly elsewhere—states where his services might be productive of more good for Harrison's cause than in his home state.<sup>35</sup>

As for Calhoun's course, Preston pictured Benton and him as rivals for the Democratic succession. He wrote: "They daily shake their heads

<sup>32</sup> Butler to Hammond, Feb. 5, 1940, *ibid.*

<sup>33</sup> J. H. Hammond to Marcellus Hammond, April 30, 1840, *ibid.*; Edgefield *Advertiser*, March 19, 1840; Calhoun to J. H. Hammond, April 2, 1840, *Calhoun Correspondence*, 451-54.

<sup>34</sup> Charleston *Mercury*, Feb. 10, 12, 14, June 30, 1840; Charleston *Courier*, Feb. 15, 1840; Edgefield *Advertiser*, March 19, 1840; Camden *Journal*, July 4, 11, 1840; Hammond to Marcellus Hammond, Dec. 14, 1840, Hammond Papers.

<sup>35</sup> Preston to Francis Lieber, March 1, 1840 (microfilm copy in Southern Historical Collection. Original MS. in Huntington Library); *Niles' Register*, LV4II (May 9, 1840), 159; Edgefield *Advertiser*, May 21, 1840.

at each other like . . . two bulls in the same cowpen—they low—they shake their tails . . . and it is manifest that ere long—the fatal shock will take place—fatal to my colleague doubtless, who will be tossed over the fence, while Benton will remain acknowledged monarch of the herd." Preston believed Calhoun's "selfish and sinister" policy had aroused the suspicions of the Van Buren administration, which watched him with "undisguised jealousy—It is the fate of a traitor to be suspected by those who enjoy his treason." Calhoun in turn affirmed Preston's bitter feeling against him, "and the more so, because I have neglected to notice him. He has carried this enmity so far that he does not recognize me."<sup>36</sup>

The Democratic press, which had eased its attacks against Preston the last six months of 1839, kept him under ceaseless fire during most of 1840. His efforts for Harrison were belittled; his group in South Carolina was sneeringly called a "minority so contemptible as to excite pity"; and, as already mentioned, he was charged with underhanded dealings in the gubernatorial campaign. Several times Preston was falsely accused of consorting with abolitionists; a large Preston-Thompson barbecue in Greenville was proclaimed a "noisy and vulgar display"; and the senator was ridiculed as having made an ineffective speech on that occasion, while he "not infrequently took his glass of gin water, which added to his theatrical gestures and strong language." Preston was even accused of "unpardonable dereliction of duty" for having missed a Senate roll call on a Calhoun pro-slavery resolution in April.<sup>37</sup>

In spite of victory in the national election in 1840, the Whigs lost ground in South Carolina. They carried only one congressional district—Greenville-Pendleton—and one county in another congressional district. Even these meager returns disappeared in 1842, at which time the Whigs failed to elect a single congressman and probably no more than four or five state legislators.<sup>38</sup>

In December 1840, the state legislature gave Preston another verbal lashing, and some members even talked of asking for his resignation. Preston ignored the strictures as he temporarily enjoyed a little nation-

<sup>36</sup> Preston to Henry Bowyer, March 29, 1840, Preston Family Papers; Preston to Francis Lieber, March 1, 1840 (microfilm copy in Southern Historical Collection); Calhoun to A. Burt, Aug. 20, 1840, *Calhoun Correspondence*, 463-64.

<sup>37</sup> *Camden Journal*, Sept. 12, 1840; *Charleston Courier*, Sept. 4, 1840; *Charleston Mercury*, May 26, June 24, July 1, Sept. 3, 1840; *Greenville Mountaineer*, Sept. 18, 25, 1840.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*, Oct. 16, 23, 1840, Oct. 21, 1842; *Yorkville Compiler*, Oct. 31, 1840; *Edgefield Advertiser*, Dec. 17, 1840.

wide publicity. His role in the Harrison campaign had earned for him consideration as a possible cabinet member. Nonetheless, he was not so favored. According to his friend Waddy Thompson, Preston, after some deliberation, asked President Harrison not to consider him, for the reason that his vote was needed to help the Whigs control the Senate. However, his excuse is difficult to believe; for Preston surely realized that his chances of re-election to the Senate in 1842 were almost nil.<sup>39</sup>

In the spring of 1841 Preston was chastised by the pro-Calhoun press for the last time. It was due to his support of Clay's bank bill, an issue he had repeatedly sidestepped and which he privately acknowledged to be "very distasteful." On this issue Preston charged Calhoun with trying to stir up a "violent excitement" against him and with trying to procure a special session of the General Assembly to censure him. The movement, Preston declared, had been forestalled by President Harrison's death and by public apathy. Nevertheless, Preston was evasive whenever questioned about his position on the national bank. As the roll call was taken in the Senate, July 28, he apparently wavered at the last moment before voting "aye."<sup>40</sup>

In September and October 1841, the *Charleston Courier* and the *Columbia Southern Chronicle*, a new Whig paper, ran a series of articles defending Preston's political actions. Politically, the senator was so feeble by that time that his enemies ignored the attempted rejuvenation. Even the Fourth of July celebrations in 1842 failed to produce the usual toasts of condemnation, and his former friend Pierce Butler called him the "deadest man" in Congress.<sup>41</sup>

<sup>39</sup> *Charleston Mercury*, Dec. 7, 23, 1840, Feb. 17, 1841; *Charleston Courier*, Dec. 2, 3, 9, 11, 1840, Jan. 29, 30, Feb. 11, 1841; *Camden Journal*, Dec. 2, 1840; *Columbia South Carolinian*, Feb. 18, 1841; *Yorkville Compiler*, Feb. 19, 1841; Waddy Thompson to John Tyler, Jan. 30, 1843, in Tyler, *Letters and Times of the Tylers*, II, 17.

<sup>40</sup> Preston to W. P. Mangum, May 3, 1841 (photostat in South Caroliniana Library); *Camden Journal*, May 19, Aug. 4, 1841; Calhoun to J. H. Hammond, Aug. 1, 1841, *Calhoun Correspondence*, 483-85. The *Mercury*, June 11, 1841, sarcastically named Preston "The Hon. William Circumstance Preston," while the *Courier*, same date, addressed the senior senator as "John Crisis Calhoun."

<sup>41</sup> When Preston was given a favored seat at a presidential levee, Editor Samuel Weir remarked that this gave "great offense to the two lower joints of 'Mr. Calhoun's tail' in this State, and set them wriggling in all sorts of style. They cannot bear that any mark of distinction should be paid to their master's great eye-sore." *Columbia Southern Chronicle*, July 21, 1841; Butler to J. H. Hammond, Sept. 29, 1841, Hammond Papers. The extant correspondence of Poinsett, Hammond, and Calhoun for the 1841-1842 period shows that scarcely any prominent South Carolina politician was concerned about Preston or his actions.

During the 1841-42 session of Congress, Preston was in poor health; he considered the session protracted and profitless; and he expressed relief over his impending retirement. He broke with his old friend Hugh S. Legaré, whom he now regarded as a "base pimp," for supporting Calhoun and Van Buren. As for Calhoun, Preston informed Waddy Thompson that some of Calhoun's friends "have proposed a reconciliation between us but our respective conditions induces me to decline it positively." Thus Preston resigned his Senate seat, November 29, 1842, still much embittered against his colleague. A few days later Calhoun likewise resigned. Of all the newspapers in the state only the *Southern Chronicle* had a kindly parting word for Preston, soon to resume his law practice in Columbia.<sup>42</sup>

In sum, with the South Carolina Whigs looking to Preston for leadership, his defeat on subtreasury greatly aided in the collapse of that party in his state. In fact, no Whig candidate for Congress from South Carolina was successful after the election of 1840, and the party's influence was completely dissipated after 1842. Senator Preston's undoing was partly due to his own deficiencies of character, his lack of candor in dealing with his friends and constituents, his connection with Clay's program, and his failure to act energetically against subtreasury before the meeting of the state legislature in November 1837. At that time the political balance shifted permanently and overwhelmingly against him. Preston's small clique, centered around Columbia, proved to be no match for the Rhett-Elmore-Calhoun combination, whose editorial support skillfully exploited every weakness in the Whig Party's armor. The struggle over subtreasury not only hastened the Whig's collapse in South Carolina, but it hurried up a rapprochement between the Nullifier and Unionist wings of the Democratic Party. This in turn made Calhoun's position more secure in the state and achieved one of his desired goals—political unity within South Carolina on national affairs.

<sup>42</sup> Preston to Thompson, July 10, Aug. 29, 1842, Waddy Thompson Papers; *Charleston Mercury*, April 16, 1842; *Columbia Southern Chronicle*, Dec. 28, 1842.

## LETTERS OF MARTHA LOGAN TO JOHN BARTRAM, 1760-1763\*

Edited by MARY BARBOT PRIOR<sup>1</sup>

Martha Daniell Logan was born December 29, 1704, the daughter of Robert Daniell, Landgrave and Deputy-Governor. She married George Logan, Jr., July 30, 1719. The *South Carolina Gazette* carried advertisements in November 1753 of "seeds, flower roots, and fruit stones" for sale at her house "on the Green, near Trotts point." Her "Gardners Kalender" has appeared in a number of Almanacs.<sup>2</sup>

Mrs. Logan carried on a lively exchange of letters and seeds with John Bartram, the noted botanist, who in a letter to Peter Collinson in May 1761, wrote of "the favor of a elderly widow Lady who spares no pains or cost to oblige me; her garden is her delight and she has a fine one: I was with her about 4 minutes in her company yet we contracted such a mutual correspondence that one silk bag of seed hath repast several times."<sup>3</sup> Bartram thrice visited Charleston, contracting a close friendship with Thomas Lamboll, Dr. Alexander Garden, and Dr. Lionel Chalmers as well as with Mrs. Logan.<sup>4</sup>

Of early Charleston gardeners, "The first that can be recollected is Mrs. Lamboll, who, before the middle of the 18th century, improved the south west extremity of King-street, in a garden which was richly stored with flowers and other curiosities of nature in addition to all the common vegetables for family use. She was followed by Mrs. Logan and Mrs. Hopton, who cultivated

\* These letters, published with the permission of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, are copied from photostats presented the Charleston Museum by Miss Emma Richardson. Only a minimum of punctuation has been supplied and "and" substituted for "&".

<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Granville T. Prior.

<sup>2</sup> This *Magazine*, XX, 205. Trott's Point "extended from the channel of Cooper river westwardly to King-street, embracing both sides of Hasell-street, on the south, and both sides of Wentworth-street, on the north." Joseph Johnson, *Traditions and Reminiscences*. . . . (Charleston, 1851), p. 273.

Records in the Charleston County Courthouse show that Mrs. Logan owned the south half of lot 128 and that she bought from Sarah and Richard Beresford (her sister and brother-in-law) the north half on April 3, 1770, for 900 pounds currency. Office of Mesne Conveyance, Book C-3, p. 109.

<sup>3</sup> Bartram Papers L, 53, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, quoted in a letter to the editor from Francis D. West. Mr. West, vice-president of the John Bartram Association and a direct descendant of Bartram, was instrumental in first directing our attention to the existence of these letters.

<sup>4</sup> For a notice in the *S. C. Gazette* of the visit to Charles Town in 1765 of "Mr. Bartram, his Majesty's botanist for North America," see this *Magazine*, III, 115.

extensive gardens in Meeting, George, and King streets, on lands now covered with houses."<sup>5</sup>

Sr

I Recived yours Dated 1d March with with the Seeds Enclosed and am much Obligd for them. I hope for better success with these then those before, having never a Seed of the Sweet Sultaine or the Humble plant that Came up. The roots and Seeds you Mention will be Very Exceptable, and if the Crocuses are blue I shall Like them Still better, as I have 2 roots of yellow allready.

You may Sertainly Depend on my Sending the Holly berries and Seeds of the Savana Locust you saw in Mr. Rapers Garden as soon as they are ripe. I will doe my Endeaviour to gett a root of the Starry Hyacinth of Mrs. Wragg but doe not know of any Other person that has it in Charlestown. The yellow Wood bears no Seeds and grows Wilde. When its Propogated, tis only from its Slips. Wherefore have Sent you Some in a box of Earth (though tis Rather late to move it) but as tis not Difficult to grow, hope they Will Live. If not, I Can with Ease Send you some more Next Winter.

In the same box you have 2 roots of another kinde of Starry Hyacinth and Some fue Other things of which you have a list at Last, as allso a list of many things Which I Coulede with Ease furnish you with If I knew what woulde be Exceptable. Wheirfore [I] begg you will without Serimony tell me What to Send thee, for am Sure no person will moore readily Comply with your Requests. I am with Respect Sr Your Well wisher and Humble Servnt

MARTHA LOGAN

A list of things which may be Sent: <sup>6</sup>

Trees and flowering Shrubs  
Oliander, Sweet shrub, Cassena  
Double flowered Pumgranat.  
Dwarfe Pumgranet, Nut meg mirtles  
Scorpesene (a shrub)

<sup>5</sup> David Ramsay, *The History of South Carolina* (Charleston, 1809), II, 229.

<sup>6</sup> Julia S. (Mrs. G. Creighton) Frampton, editor of the *News and Courier* feature "Lowcountry Gardening," has contributed a number of helpful comments on this list. She suggests that the sweet shrub was probably the banana shrub; the purple-flowered canary shrub, the spikenard tree—often referred to today as the butterfly bush; Chine Indigo, false or Carolina indigo; the passion flower, our wild May pop, an orchid bloom with a cross in the center; feathered-leaf, a type of poinciana. Rose Cassia (elsewhere referred to by Mrs. Logan as "cashion rose") was undoubtedly the rose acacia; Turkey balm, the bee balm, spicy and sweet when crushed; Chine and Turkey pinks, our dianthus; Narsses, of course, the narcissus.

Olive tree  
 the Catalpa. One with white and other reed flowrs.  
 Canary Shrub (Purple flowrs)  
 flowering bays and Laurels  
 English Honey Suckles  
 Chine Indigo  
 Pasion flower  
 the feathered leaf. One with Scarlet flowrs.  
 Snaile flower  
 Rose Cassia  
 Turkey Balm  
 alloways—two Sorts. One that flowrs Constantly, the other very  
 Seldom (if Ever).  
 Ice plant  
 White Crocustrs  
 grape Hyacinth (blue)  
 Chine and Turkey pinks, Caldonian Iris  
 Gause Narsses, Double white Sweet-sented Cyprus narses, Tuby roses

A list [of] whats Sent in the box:

- 6 Plants of yellow Wood. 2 D[itt]o Holly, 2 D[itt]o the tree in Rapers garden.  
 1 Turff of Striped grass (much Esteemed hear). Several roots of a Small purple flower you See in Mrs. Bees garden, the which you liked.  
 1 Plant of Ittilian Jessimine. 2 Starry Hyacinth but not of Bulbas kinde.  
 PS When you Send or Wright to me againe, be pleased to Direct for me to the Caire of John Logan, Merchant in Charles Town, for Dr. Garden has so much business he has not time to Think of me.<sup>7</sup> Wheirefore your Letters have Some times layen a good While and I never known of them.  
 Capt. North here is the Person brings your box. Will be a Safe hand when you faviour me with the roots and seeds you mentioned.  
 Mr. John Bartram, Botanists in Philadelphia  
 With a Box of Earth and Plants. These

Sr

I have Last weak Recived boath your faveours with the Seeds theirin mentioned, for which am much Obliged, and wish you Woulde bein so kinde to Lett me known what we have that woulde bein most Exceptable

<sup>7</sup> John Logan (1729-1802), son of Martha Logan.

Dr. Garden, eminent physician, botanist, and naturalist, author of *Flora Caroliniana*. He was son of the Rev. Alexander Garden and father of Major Alexander Garden of Garden's *Anecdotes*. See this *Magazine*, II, 93, 126; XXVII, 114. Ramsey, *op. cit.*, pp. 469-471.

to you; but as you did not, have sent in Closed the Littel Bagg which Containe Some Varity but fue of a kinde, (as you Requested). The middle Division is flouring Srubes, trees, and Vines, which we Esteem and wish they may be New to you. I Doubt not you have many things which I Shoulde be glade of, as I am particularly fond of Double flowers. And if you Could Send me a fue Seeds of white Stock gilly flours and yellow Wall flours which woulde Produce the Double flours, or any of the Sweet or Other pease of the Like Kinds, they woulde be Much Esteemed; or a fue fine Carnations, as I have only the Comon kind.

I was so unluckey this Last Summer to Loose all the Roots of my Ranunculists, anemoneys, Tulips, and fine Double Hyacinths, by Laying them in a Closet to Dry after they weire taken up, for the mice Devoured them before I had a thought of it. If these Seed with you and Canbe Spaire them, I shoulde be Vastly glade to make the[e] any Return for a fue, Ither roots or Seeds. Wee have Several Sorts of Bulbas roots and I Could Easely Convey them to the[e] if They woulde be any Adision to your Collection of floures. I shoulde be Likewise glade of your kinds of hesperis as they may Differ from mine.

also a littel Double Chine asster Seed \*

I doe againe assure you of the truth of my assertion Relating to the Striped Stock gilly flours. And If the See[d] Should Produce you flours of a plaine Seed, I Begg yould not be Discouraged but make a Second tryal the Next Season, by which I am perswaided you Will be Convinced of the truth. -- The Seeds I sent you by the Names of Virgin Stock was the Same Littel flour you so much Admired in my Garden and [I] hope they have Succeeded with [you] but have againe Sent [a] fue more for fear of Any Accidents and am with greatest Sincerity Sr yr assured friend and Humble Servant

MARTHA LOGAN

Charlestown 20 December 1760

My good Wishes attend yr family.

To Mr John Bartram

To the care of Philip Bennezet Mercht. In Philadelphia  
P Capt. Noarth

Q D C

These

\* This line is written in the margin.

Sr

I rote you Some Littel time Since Requesting your Instructions in my flour Garden which I hope you will grant. I make no Doubt you have Recived the Seeds I Sent by Doctr Gardens Conveyance and Wish they may Succeed to the Uttermost of your Desires. And If tis in my Power to Oblidge the[e] with anything in this Province, Only Lett me know and you Shall finde no Person moore Ready.

When you favour me againe with a line, Pray be so kinde to tell me Whither the following Roots are to be Purchased with you. As the Passage is so much Shorter, I Should Chuse it Rather than Sending to England for them—Such as Tulips, Ranunculists, Anemonyes, Narsisses, Hyacinths, and Horsenecks. The Lasst named, and a littel Seed or Slips of the Tree you Call the Snowball, is what I am particularly Desirous of. And they are not to be had from England for I have Sent for them In Several of my Lissts but Never got one, and I find they Doe very well with us, for Doctr Garden has a good many roots Now bluming.

If the afore mentioned are to be purchased (and yould give me Leave) Shall trouble you with a Short List by the time yr Seeds are ripe, and roots Out of the ground. In the Meantime I remain, with true Reguard Sr, your assured friend and Humble Servt.

MARTHA LOGAN

February 20 1761

Sr

I have the Pleasure of yours by Capt North and am much Obliged for the Roots therein Promised. They will be quite Acceptable. If you have any Sweet or other Peas of the Double kinds, [I] Shoulde be Very glade of a fue.

I am Sorry the Holley Did not Prove what you Wanted but Shall make Inquirey after the trees in Mrs. Wraggs and by Mr. Rapers garden, and Send you Some of theire Berryes as Soon Ripe. As Likewise all the Other things you Mention in theire Season for Removing. I doe not know if the Scarlet floured Vine I have be what you [*illegible*] heard what I call Cannary [Vine], Saide to be Lyllass. Perhaps you may know it by this. How Ever, Shall Send boath with the Others and hope they will be an adision to yr Collections.

I have bein a little unluckey in the Seeds though hast be so kinde to Send. Several never Come up, amoungst which Weire the Sweet Sultains, Purple Molly, and Sibera Rocket. If the[e] are well Stocked with Seeds, [I] Shall be glade to try them once moore. Pray lett me



favour he will Lett me know which are of a large kind and which Small, that I may Plant them Properly.

Sr

I Recived your faviour by Capt North with the Box and things theirein mentioned, for which am much Oblidged. I have now Sent you the under written in your Own Box and hope you will have them alive. The tree in Mr Glens garden is the Same with that of Rapers, of which I have Sent you a plant and Some Seeds. The Latter Comes in a Smale Bagg.

If the Season is Proper I Shoulde be very glade of a tree—yr Kelmia and Leelass of Diffing Kinds from Our, for we have none Other but the Purplish-reed floured Leelass and reed and whitte Kellmia,<sup>11</sup> which blowes in Bunches, but I finde from Mrs. Hopton you have 4 or 5 Sorts. The mozeennan Shrub and a root or two of Pieoneis (or Seeds) I Shoulde be Very thankfull for. Mr. Ratlive Brought of this latter for him Self by Land and they Seem quite aLive and Springing. I have filled the Earth in the box with Seeds as I finde you take Caire of it and Wish you Better Success with them. The Snaile flouer will not Bear our Winters without gaurding it by Shelters Maide Over their roots, so that yours will require to be moved in the fall into a green house, for they will not flour till the Second year. If we have any thing Else you Desire pray lett me know and will doe my Endeavour to gett them. In the meantime Conclude me your assured friend and well Wisher

MARTHA LOGAN

PS My Respects attend your Spouse and family.  
February 13 1762

Memorand on Plants in the Box:

- 1 Plant from Mr. Rapers tree, with a talley on it
- 2 Dwarf Pumgranets, 1 Olive, 1 Sweet Shrub, 6 yellow wood
- 4 Lobloly bays, 3 Slips Bouncing besses, 3 Mrs Bees flouer
- 2 Nutts of Olive in the Earth in box

When you have any Cyclans to Spaire, Shall be Very glade of a root [of] Each Sort of them.

Mrs Hopton Just Enformed me you was desirous of a root of Our Wilde Lilly, which is Called the golden, also the Wragged Lilly. Wheirefore have put 3 or 4 roots of Each in the Box with 3 roots [of] the fox taile

<sup>11</sup> Spelled below as "calmia": mountain laurel.

Hyacinth which She Sends thee, also 1 hyacinth (Perue) and 4 plants  
Pride [of] Chine.<sup>12</sup> The Hyacinths are Planted in Box.

two roots of Ivy or calmia  
dwarf double rose  
flowering rasbery  
dwarf plum, a prety shrub  
crategus from new england flowering<sup>13</sup>  
one tree box [illegible] of white lychnis  
Several root of striped Peonea

To Mr. John Bartram

Sr

I have the Pleasure of yrs 9th of November and hartly Congratulate  
yr Safe return to yr family, which I hope you found well. I am much  
Oblig'd for the Enclosed Seeds and Promised Roots, which will be quite  
Exceptable.

I hearewith Send you a box which Containe the Underwritten Plants  
and in the Earth Several Roots (with out Tops) of [illegible] of Diffiring  
kinds which hope will be Such as yould like [illegible] being the best  
I Could gett. Also in Same Case is a tin [containing] Seeds, and a fue  
young Stock gilly flowers which weire [illegible] the Critical time in  
Sepr to Stripe them; and begg yould Pl[ant them] out at Same time in  
March in order to see if they will [bloom] with you, for they Never faile  
with me.

I am Very Sorry tis not in my Power to Send you any Seeds of the  
Ice plant. It died Last Summer with Out Seeding, but will Endeavour  
to Gett Some for you. The Seeds of Mrs Bees flowers are most all fallen  
before I received yrs so have Sent you a very fue of them, but will  
Remember it another year. I have Sent a large Pod of the Shrub you  
See beyond the quarter House,<sup>14</sup> and also 4 young Evergreen which I  
hope is the Pandus you mentioned in yr last. It is Called with us

<sup>12</sup> The China berry, common in the southern United States. It is also known  
as Indian or Persian lilac.

<sup>13</sup> The hawthorn.

<sup>14</sup> The Quarter House was a road house or tavern first mentioned in a deed  
dated 24 Dec., 1720. A race track called the York Course was laid out at the Quarter  
House in 1735, and annual meets and races were held here until 1754. It was  
apparently a favorite resort for social affairs. This *Magazine*, XIX, 43. The South  
Carolina Historical Society owns two plans of the Quarter House Tract. One of these  
(n. d.) shows a large garden located behind the House. Henry A. Middleton Smith  
Collection, file 193.

Oliander, a Very Pretty flowering Shrub; Like wise 2 Slips of Olive as I could not gett them with Roots, and we frequently have these grow with us. Shoulde they faile, I make no Doubt the Nutts I Send will Supply you, as they are of the Last Summers growth and weire well Ripped. The Spung tree is a Native of Jamica and will not bear much Colde but is a Delightfull Sweet flowering Shrub and well worth a Place [in a gr]een house. In the Same Case is 2 Loblolly bays and a fue roots of Mrs [torn] and hope they will Succeed with you. My Best wishes attend [torn] and am Very Sincerely your friend and Humble Servant

MARTHA LOGAN

[torn] 25 1763

PS

Wee have had Several Vessels from yr Poart since I Received the above mentioned Letter from you, but have not had a line on the roots, which makes me feare the French or Spanyolds has Disappointed me of them. There is two Other Trees in the Case which is not a Evergreen but I think it a Prittey Shrub, and the Lillyes, I make no doubt, will doe with great Ease for they grow wilde with us.

As  
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Col.

Aug.  
1839  
died

## DEATH RECORDS (1829-1865)\*

Compiled by HENRY A. DESAUSSURE<sup>1</sup>

Ashby, Jas. A., died 30 July 1846  
Adger, James Mrs., died 18 Oct. 1856  
Adger, James died in New York 24 Sept. 1858  
Alston, John Ashe died (on Sullivan's Island) 8 Oct. 1858  
Adger, Wm. died 13 Decr. 1853 in New York  
Allan, Cecilia S. Mrs. died 17 Augt. 1849  
Annie (my servant) died 18 May 1864  
Bailey, Henry died April 28, 1849  
Bonneau, John E. died 12 Novr. 1849  
Blacklock, John F. Mrs. died 10 June 1850  
Barksdale, Thos. died 18 Nov. 1850  
Boone, A. DeSaussure died 23 Jany. 1851  
Burroughs, Dr. Henry K. died Octo. 1851  
Bee, Mrs. Charlotte died 4 March 1852  
Baron, Dr. Alexr L. died 9 Feby. 1842  
Boone, Mrs. Sarah Amelia died 30 Augt. 1842  
Blanding, Col. Abm. died 20 Septr. 1839  
Baron, Mrs. Elizth. F. died 23 Jany. 1845  
Bacot, Miss Maria died 18 Jany. 1846  
Boone, Mrs. Sarah died 16 Feby 1843  
Boone, Miss Eliza P. died 1 March 1856  
Boone, Dr. John G. died 1 Jany. 1857  
Butler, Andw Pickens Judge died 25 May 1857  
Bacot, Mrs. Harriet (nee Wainwright) died 13 Feb. 1858  
Boykin, Wm. DeS (my grandnephew) died Feb. 1858  
Barksdale, Mrs. Rebecca B. died 20 March 1853  
Boone, Mrs. Mary S. died 27 May 1853  
Bell, William died 18 July 1853  
Boyce, Ker died 19 March 1854  
Beckett, Wm. died 8 August 1854  
Bennett, Mrs. Jefferson died 25 Septr. 1854  
Blake, Edward died 25 March 1854  
Bacot, Thos. Wright Jr. died 13 July 1851

\* These records are printed from the original notebook presented the Society by Col. Alston Deas, Mount Pleasant, S. C.

<sup>1</sup> Henry Alexander DeSaussure was the son of Judge Henry W. DeSaussure, born Aug. 16, 1763; married Eliza Ford of Morristown, N. J., Apr. 1785; died Mar. 29, 1839. Henry A. DeSaussure was born Sept. 15, 1788; married to Susan Boone, 1810; died Dec. 9, 1865.

- Bell, William died 18 July 1853  
 Beckett, William died 8 August 1864  
 Beck, Mrs. Mary Ford died 30 March 1854  
 Bacot, Mrs. Harriet S. died 13 Feb. 1858  
 Ball, Isaac (Rutledge) died 25 May 1858  
 Bull, Mrs. Mary DeSaussure died 19 Sept. 1858  
 Barnwell, Mrs. Sarah Montgomery died 6 Octo 1858  
 Barnwell, Mrs. Sarah Gibbs (Beaufort) died 21 Oct. 1858  
 Bedon, Mrs. Julia (Columbia) died 30 October 1858  
 Burnet, Mrs. Eliz. Washington died Octo. 1828  
 Bulow, Thos. L. died July 1857  
 Burden, Kinsey Senr. 4 December 1859  
 Bacot, Harriet Jane died March 1860  
 Boone, Dr. Philip Smith died 25 May 1862  
 Barker, Samuel G. died 10 January 1863  
 Blanding, Mrs. Mary Caroline died 21 December 1862  
 Barnwell, Revd Wm. H. died March 1863  
 Boone, Mrs. Phoebe (Bishop's wife) died Suez Egypt 20 Jany. 1864  
 Boone, Miss Sarah G. died at Columbia 5 August 1864  
 Boone, Wm. J. Rt. Revd. died at Shanghai China 17 July 1864  
 Bull, Sallie D. died 9 Sept. 1864  
 Bennett, Thos. (Governor) died 30 January 1865  
 Cogdell, John S. Col. died 25 Febr. 1847  
 Caldwell, Wm. A.—died 1 Octo. 1846  
 Cleary, Susan M. Mrs. died 19 July 1848  
 Carson, Elizth. Mrs.—died 28 March 1849  
 Calhoun, John C. died 31 March 1850  
 Clarke, Joseph died 14 December 1853  
 Carson, Wm. A. died 17 August 1856  
 Cretia, my servant died 3 Novr. 1856  
 Condy, Thos D. Col. died 10 May 1858  
 Cogdell, Mrs. Maria died 8 December 1858  
 Colburn, Jas S. died 14 July 1859  
 Calder, William died 22 September 1860  
 Connor, Henry Wm. died 11 January 1861  
 Coffin, George M. died June 1862  
 Coffin, Thomas A. died 15 July 1863  
 Campbell, Dr. I. Motte died September 1863<sup>2</sup>  
 DeSaussure, Danl. (my grandfather) died 2 July 1798 aged 62 years  
       "      Mrs. Mary (my grandmother) died 25 Dec. 1815, aged 77 yrs  
       "      Mrs. Jane (my Grand Aunt) died 11 June 1829, aged 85

<sup>2</sup> Isaac Motte Campbell was the son of Capt. David Campbell of the British Army, who married the daughter of Col. Isaac Motte. Joseph Johnson, *Traditions and Reminiscences of the American Revolution* (Charleston, 1851), p. 67.

- " Henry Wm. (my Father) died 29 March 1839, aged 76
- " Mrs. Eliza (my Mother) died 9 Sept. 1821
- " Mrs. Isabella De Saussure died 16 Jan. 1844
- " Henry Wm. (my Grandson) died 30 August 1842
- " Dr. Henry Bolivar (my nephew) died August 1848
- " I. Champion—(Ditto) died 1 Decr. 1849
- " Allen—(Do.) died 9 April 1852
- " Henrietta G. (my Granddaughter) died 27 June 1852
- " Danl S. (my brother) died 12 April 1857
- " Jas. Peronneau (my grandson) died 30 Octo. 1852
- " Mrs. Sarah Z. (my sister-in-law) died 25 May 1854
- " Louis L. (my grandson) died 11 May 1855
- " Daniel (Ditto) died 29 May 1850
- " Louis (son of Dr. L. M. DeSe) died 17 October 1858
- " Jno Boone (my Grandson) died 27 March 1859
- " Mrs. Fanny (widow of D.L.D.) died 11 Jany. 1861
- " John Boone (my dear Son) died 19 March 1862
- " Henry (my nephew, Son of Jno. M. DeSe) died 30 June 1862
- " Eloise G. (my granddaughter) died 18 July 1862
- " Wm. Danl. Col. killed 2 July 1863 at Gettysburgh
- " Eliza Champion Mrs. died March 11, 1864
- " Susan Mrs. (wife of H. A. D.) died Tuesday 25 October 1864
- Davidson, Mrs. Eliza died April 1845
- Deas, Henry died 2 December 1846
- Diana, my servant (washer) died 4 July 1848
- De Jongh, Wm. F. died 18 January 1850
- Dawes, Hugh P. died 21 March 1850
- Dobson, O. L. died 26 March 1850
- Davie, Fred Wm. died 9 April 1850
- Deas, Mrs. Henry died 14 March 1852
- Deas, Wm. Branford died 17 March 1852
- Douglas, Mrs. Jas. K. died 30 March 1852
- Deas, Charles died 6 April 1854
- Deas, Seaman died 24 April 1854
- Dawson, Chas, P. died 6 Octo. 1856
- Dehon, Mrs. Sarah died 23 May 1857
- Denison, Revd. H. M. died 28 Sept. 1858
- Drayton, Miss Maria died 6 Octo. 1859
- Dargan, Chanc. Geo. W. died 13 June 1859
- Drayton, Alfred R. died 6 January 1860
- Drayton, Miss Henrietta died 11 January 1861
- Drummond, John died 3 Feb. 1862

(To be continued)

## CLINTON AND HORNSBY FAMILY RECORDS

Contributed by LOUISE KELLY CROWDER <sup>1</sup>

### THE CLINTON RECORDS

Copied from the Bible of Joseph Clinton,<sup>2</sup> now in the possession of a direct descendant, Miss Belle Simril, of Chester, S. C.

#### Births

Joseph Clinton was born March 10, 1775 (Tuesday)  
Mary Clinton was born Feb'y 18, 1779 (Thursday). Note: Mary Barnet.  
Peter Miner Clinton was born April 29, 1800 (Sunday).  
One son b. May 11, 1802 and died 15 inst.  
Martha Barnett Clinton was born (Saturday) April 23, 1803.  
Thomas Jefferson Clinton was born Friday, Nov. 22, 1805.  
Joseph Bradner Clinton was born Friday May 13, 1808.  
James McCully Clinton was born Sunday July 29, 1810.  
Frances Semiramis Clinton was born Monday April 5, 1813.  
Cynthia Margaret Clinton was born April 3, 1816, Thursday.<sup>3</sup>  
Robert Alexander Clinton was born Monday April 17, 1820.  
Mary M. Simrill was born Thursday June 27, 1839.  
John D. Simrill was born Oct. 22, 1809.  
James H. Johnson was born Sept. 20, 1835.  
Joel R. Simril was born Tuesday March 31, 1841.  
Francis Bradnor was born May 31, 1845.  
James Tervin Simril was born Saurday [sic] August 23, 1845.  
Belle W. Johnson was born Friday April 30, 1859.  
Mary P. Johnson was born Tuesday Jan. 16, 1860.  
John Lee Simril was born Wednesday, Oct. 16, 1867.  
Terwin Ewing Simrill was born Tuesday Sept. 27, 1869.  
Charles C. Simril was born Saturday Jan. 6, 1872.  
Margaret M. Simril was born Sunday Feb. 14, 1874.  
Joe Hal Simril was born Thursday March 2, 1876.  
Watson Simril was born Monday May 5, 1878.  
Belle Simril was born Sunday 2 o'clock, Spt. 19, 1880.  
Amanda Lucinda Lee was born Sunday May 20, 1841.  
Mabel Lee Simril was born Sunday Morning, July 8, 1894.  
James Land, Jr., was born March 7, 1886 at Yorkville, S. C.  
James Lee Land was born July 26, 1915, Monday afternoon, 4 o'clock in Chester, S. C.

<sup>1</sup> Mrs. James W. Crowder, 157 York St., Chester.

<sup>2</sup> Son of Capt. Peter Clinton, Revolutionary soldier, b. York County, c. 1745.

<sup>3</sup> Under this name is the notation: Mother of Joel R. Simrill and Mary S. Johnson.

Margaret Simril Land was born Thursday morning at 10 o'clock Sept. 13, 1917 in Chester, S. C.

Reuben Burton Pitts III was born 10:45 PM Sunday night, Nov. 17, 1940, Presbyterian Hospital, Charlotte, N. C. Son of Margaret Simril Land Pitts and Reuben Burton Pitts Jr.

Jimmy Land Pitts was born Monday January 29, 1945, 2:30 PM at Presbyterian Hospital, Charlotte, N. C.

John Douglass Pitts, born Mon. May 11, 1953, Madison, N. J. Hospital.

#### Marriages

Margaret Cynthis Clinton married John Davidson Simril 1837.

Mary Simril Johnson married James H. Johnson May 2, 1857.

Amanda Lucinda Lee married Joel R. Simril Jan 16, 1867.

Mollie Johnson married W. W. Perry Feb. 28, 1883.

Sallie Gunn married John Lee Simril 1892.

Margaret Simril Land married Reuben Burton Pitts Jr., Saturday, June 10, 1939 at Chester.

Eleanor Graham Jordan married James Lee Land Saturday, Feb. 14, 1940, Greenville, S. C. High noon.

#### Deaths

W. H. Nance d. Sept. 14, 1886.

W. W. Perry d. Dec. 9, 1896.

Belle Johnson Nance d. 11 PM Tuesday, Feb. 18, 1936 Charlotte, N. C., b. in Lancaster, S. C.

Mollie Johnson Perry d. 1:30 AM Wed. April 28, 1937 in Charlotte N. C. Buried in Lancaster, S. C.

Terven Simril d. 2.30 PM Tuesday January 9, 1951 at home (Chester, S. C.)

Robert D. Clinton d. Nov. 16, 1851.

Mary Clinton (sen.) d. Friday Nov. 9, 1860, age 81 years 9 mos.

Joseph Clinton d. April 25, 1869, age, 91 years.

Semiramis Clinton d. Tuesday Sept. 28, 1875.

Francis B. Simril d. May 10, 1844.

James Johnson d. May 28, 1868.

Sallie Gunn Simril d. Sunday evening Sept. 30, 1895.

Margaret Clinton Simril d. June 27, 1902 (Friday).

Mary Simril Johnson d. Thursday, 4 PM May 25, 1922, Lancaster, S. C.

John Davidson Simril b. Oct. 22, 1809, d. May 30, 1893 Tuesday, 5:25 PM.

Watson Simril d. Oct. 5, 1882.

Amanda Lee Simril d. 8:30 A.M. Sat. Nov. 9, 1901.

Joe Hal Simril d. Wednesday Aug. 26, 1914, 5:30 PM, Columbia.

Joel R. Simril d. Tuesday Night at 12:10 Sept. 29, 1914.

John Lee Simril d. Friday Jan. 25, 1917, in Jacksonville, Fla.

Major James Lee Land was killed in action in the Naples area, Italy, possibly in the vicinity of the Volturno River, October 4, 1943, in World War

II. He was Exec. Officer of the 1st Batt., 143rd Inf., 36th Div., Fifth U. S. Army, under Gen. Mark W. Clark.

Margaret Simril (Maggie) died at the Chester County Hospital Wednesday Feb. 18, 1953, 1:30 AM.

#### THE HORNSBY RECORDS

Copied from a Bible printed in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1756, now owned by C. B. Jordan of Bascomville, S. C.

William Hornsby, son of Leonard Hornsby and Elizabeth his wife was born 25 August 1731

Mary Hornsby, dau. of Leonard Hornsby and Elizabeth his wife was born 6th of January 1740/1 about two hours before day.

Ann Hornsby, daughter of Leonard Hornsby and Elizabeth his wife was born 5th February 1742/3

Leah Hornsby, daughter of Leonard Hornsby and Elizabeth his wife was born 19th February 1744/45

Charlotte Hornsby, daughter of Leonard Hornsby and Elizabeth his wife was born 25 November 1746

Lezze Hornsby, daughter of Leonard Hornsby and Elizabeth his wife was born 22 February 1748/9

Janet Hornsby, daughter of Leonard Hornsby and Elizabeth his wife was born 30th March 1751

John Hornsby, son of Leonard Hornsby and Elizabeth his wife was born 7th June 1753

Leonard Hornsby, son of Leonard Hornsby and Elizabeth his wife was born 13 May 1755

James Hornsby, son of Elizabeth Hornsby and Leonard Hornsby, was born 31st July 1757

Moses Hornsby, son of Leonard Hornsby and Elizabeth his wife was born 9th December 1759

Leonard Hornsby deceased in the 80th year of his age April 12, 1779

Elizabeth Hornsby deceased in the 81st year of her age January 21st 1801.

Noah Hornsby, son of John Hornsby and Elizabeth his wife was born 9th April 1778

Joseph Hornsby, son of John Hornsby and Elizabeth his wife was born 23rd December 1779

John Hornsby, son of John Hornsby and Elizabeth his wife was born 19th Dec. 1781

William Hornsby, son of John Hornsby and Elizabeth his wife, born 29th March 1784

Leonard Hornsby, son of John and Elizabeth his wife was born 31 July 1789

Moses Hornsby son of John Hornsby and Elizabeth his wife was born 19 July 1790

Hughston Windham was born Dec. 25, 1792

Elizabeth Hornsby, daughter of John Hornsby and Elizabeth his wife was born 4th January 1795

Leonard Hornsby son of Leonard wrote this Aug 10 1780

James Hornsby deceased April 21, 1781

John Hornsby, Leonard Hornsby, Moses Hornsby his name and with my pen I wrote the same January 1, 1782

Margaret Hornsby, daughter of Joseph Hornsby, born Oct. 23, 1801.

Elizabeth Hornsby, daughter of Joseph Hornsby, born 13 September 1804

Cinthah Hornsby daughter of Joseph Hornsby born April 2, 1807

Marmaduke Hornsby, son Leonard Hornsby, born January 15, 1815

Leah Blake, daughter of William Blake and Phaniel his wife was born 12th January 1775

Thomas Early Blake son of William Blake and Phaniel his wife was born November 1776

John William Blake son of William Blake and Phaniel his wife was born 16th January 1781

William Blake deceased January 22, 1781

Anna Roden, daughter of Jeremiah Roden and Mary his wife born 28 May 1762

Elizabeth Roden, daughter of Jeremiah Roden and Mary his wife born 20th February 17.....

Leonard Roden son of Jeremiah Roden and Mary his wife was born 7th April 1765

Jeremiah Roden son of Jeremiah Roden and Mary his wife was born 9th of August 1767

## TWO CORRECTIONS

Mrs. George C. Logan, 22 Meeting Street, Charleston, corrects this *Magazine*, XVII, 64:

Among children of Captain Joseph Seabrook, Jr., of Edisto Island, who died July 12, 1831, is listed his child Mary Tatnal as the wife of Col. Joseph Whaley and mother of Maria, Thomas, b. 1816, and William, b. 1817.

This is an error. Louisa Barnwell Seabrook was the wife of Col. Joseph Whaley and mother of Maria, Thomas, William, and others who died in infancy, as can be proved by the following sources: (1) the tombstone in the Episcopal Churchyard on Edisto Island which bears the inscription: "Mrs. Louisa B. Whaley, wife of Mr. Joseph Whaley, Died Edisto Island June 10, 1822, Aged 29 years and 9 months." Col. Joseph Whaley later married Ann Jenkins, who died Aug. 2, 1865, aged 68; (2) Capt. Joseph Seabrook, Jr.'s will—Vol. 39, Book C, 975—proved Jan. 10, 1832, mentions his children "Andrew DeVeaux, Mary Tatnale, and James and Clark, and . . . my three grand children, Maria, Thomas and William (The grandchildren taking the share of the parent as if they were alive share and share alike)." This deceased parent was Louisa Barnwell Seabrook, who died June 10, 1822—ten years before her father's will was proved in 1832; (3) the obituary of William Whaley in the *News and Courier*, Charleston, Nov. 28, 1879, mentions his mother, Louisa Barnwell Seabrook; (4) the genealogy in Colonial Dames papers #322 and #573, passed by Robert Wilson and A. S. Salley, Jr., respectively.

Mrs. Logan also corrects this *Magazine*, XXVII, 9:

Note mentions Dr. William Logan (1751-1793) of Charleston. This should be Dr. George Logan (1751-1793), who was awarded his degree in Edinburgh and was a founder of the South Carolina Medical Society. His father was William (1726-1802) and his son William (1776-1854). He had no brothers.

## NOTES AND REVIEWS \*

*The Letters of William Gilmore Simms.* Collected and edited by Mary C. Simms Oliphant, Alfred Taylor Odell, and T. C. Duncan Eaves. Volume V, 1867-70. (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1956. Pp. xxiii, 571. Illustrations, notes, indices. \$8.50.)

The publication of this fifth volume of Simms's letters completes a task of value to both American history and American literature. Mrs. Oliphant began collecting the letters in 1937. The first volume was published in 1952. The first letter is dated July 16, 1830; and the last was written on May 17, 1870, less than a month before Simms's death. This large body of correspondence, extending over the forty busy years spanning the mid-century, touches, sometimes significantly, many of the important topics and personalities of the time. Always, too, they reveal the multifarious mind of Simms himself.

The fifth volume continues the useful editorial practices of the previous four (with improvement on the first) and adds a general index. Its major contents are letters written by Simms from 1867 to 1870, but it also contains as appendices a group of undated letters and a group of dated letters, some important ones, secured too late for the appropriate volumes. To the historian the letters written between 1867 and 1870 are chiefly interesting because, like *The Private Journal of Henry William Ravenel*, they reveal a strong man's effort to rebuild a civilized way of life in spite of the chaos of Reconstruction. To the student of American literature they are chiefly interesting in their detailed revelation of the frustrating conditions facing the professional writer of this country during the mid-century.

To one who knows and admires Simms, these letters carry a strong emotional impact. In them we find Simms facing, with strength drawn from courage, the apparent disintegration of all that he had valued: his country, his family, his property, his fame, his own health. As he wrote to Paul Hamilton Hayne, "I am writing from morning to night. If I get my daily bread from my daily work, I am content. The prayer authorizes us to ask for no more; and in truth, there are few men who deserve any more."

Winthrop College

HAMPTON M. JARRELL

\* This department will print queries not exceeding fifty words from members of the Society. The charge to non-members is one dollar for fifty words or less. Copy should be sent to The Secretary, Fireproof Building, Charleston 5, S. C., at least three months in advance of publication.

*Through the South and West with Jeremiah Evarts in 1826.* Edited by J. Orin Oliphant. (Lewisburg, Pennsylvania: Bucknell University Press, 1956. Pp. 143. Frontispiece. \$2.60.)

The editor, professor of history in Bucknell University, has added enough information in the introduction to make us quite familiar with the man whose diary and letters comprise this work.

As corresponding secretary for the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions—an interdenominational Protestant organization that worked with native Indians as well as with truly foreign peoples—Evarts had earlier traveled through the Indian tribes of the southeast. A tubercular Bostonian, he started his 1826 expedition in January, so escaping a Northern winter. He sailed to Charleston and returned by way of the Mississippi and the Ohio.

His records are naturally concerned largely with the problems of Christian education among the Indians, the search for missionaries and for funds. He meets a number of people, a few of them of general interest. Among these is the young Cherokee leader, Elias Boudinot, who is in Charleston gathering funds for the printing press that, by means of Sequoyah's lately invented alphabet, would make his people independently literate. The diarist also indicates who were the generously inclined of Charleston at the time, and what they might be expected to give.

A remark Evarts made a century and a quarter ago is still apt. Noting the intense irritation of Southerners from reports of the Northern press on slavery, he writes: "I am persuaded, however, that the southern people must make up their minds to have the northern people speak rashly, inadvisedly, and ignorantly, on this subject."

SAMUEL GAILLARD STONEY

*American Heritage: The Magazine of History*, VIII, No. 4. (New York: June, 1957. Pp. 112. Illustrations. Annual subscription, 6 issues, United States, \$12.00; foreign, \$13.00. Single copy, \$2.95.)

The June issue of *American Heritage* again meets the high standard set by its preceding numbers. As usual, the contents show a wide range in period and personality, locale, topic and tone. Outstanding are Catherine Drinker Bowen's fine study of Sir Edward Coke, Lord Chief Justice of England, whose defiance of the divine right of kings helped lay the foundation of American agitation for individual liberty; Thomas A. Bailey's article on the failure of Wilson's League of Nations; and an analysis of six books spanning the cataclysmic events of the last century

and posing the impact of large issues on the national conscience. In lighter vein "Cornflake Crusade," the Kellogg-Post revolution of American eating habits, is as entertaining as the story of Abby and Julia and the seven cows of Glastonbury.

The accompanying illustrations are excellent. Here are stunning color portraits of Lord Coke photographed from the original paintings hanging today in the home of Coke's direct descendant, the Earl of Leicester; here, from the National Archives, the water colors of James Alden, recording the great frontier along the 49th Parallel that faced the United States surveying expedition of 1857; here a portfolio of unique Currier and Ives prints indexing the "tears and laughter" of sentimental nineteenth century America. Cartoons, maps, line-drawings, photographs, portraits—they are all here, appealing to every taste, illuminating the past with a visual complement that makes history come alive.

Under the sponsorship of the American Association for State and Local History and the Society of American Historians, *American Heritage* renders a deep service to the American public in presenting history in so artistic a form.

M. B. P.

#### THE SOCIETY

The Society announces the opening of the middle east room, overlooking Washington Park, as the Henry A. Middleton Smith Memorial Room. Established by action of the Board in July in tribute to Judge Smith, who served twenty years as vice-president of the Society, the room will serve as an editorial office for the *Magazine*, in whose pages his "Baronies of South Carolina" and other invaluable articles appeared. The primary purpose of the room, however, is to house fittingly the fine collection of early grants, plats, and other Caroliniana which Judge Smith bequeathed to the Society.<sup>1</sup>

It was with deep regret that the Board received the resignation of Dr. Anne King Gregorie as editor of the *Magazine*, effective with the October 1957 issue.

To a well-established reputation for scholarly achievement, marked by the publication of *Thomas Sumter* (1931), *South Carolina Chancery Court Records* (1950), the *History of Sumter County* (1954), and numerous other historical studies, she has, over the past ten years, added prestige to her name as well as to that of the Society by her fine editorship. Now interested in enjoying a well-deserved rest from the chores and responsibilities of the quarterly and in pursuing her own research,

<sup>1</sup> For portrait and biography of the Hon. H. A. M. Smith, see this *Magazine*, XXIX, 67.

she will still contribute her valuable services in consenting to serve on the Publication Committee.

The Society has recently sponsored two highly successful activities. On November 10 it held a tour in the Georgetown area, visiting Chicora Wood, Mansfield, and Friendfield Plantations and Prince Frederick Winyah Parish Church. On November 16 Dr William B. Hesseltine of the University of Wisconsin, a visiting lecturer this year at the University of South Carolina, addressed a large group of members and guests of the Society. A reception in Dr. Hesseltine's honor followed his address.

We regret that the following names were omitted from the roster of South Carolina members of the Society printed in the July (1957) issue:

*Conway:* Mrs. S. G. Godfrey, Horry Memorial Library, Wm. Basil King, Samuel G. Morris, Laura Janette Quattlebaum, Paul Quattlebaum, Mrs. I. T. Scoggin.

*Greenville:* Furman University Library, Greenville Public Library, Mrs. R. E. Houston, Mrs. T. S. Inglesby, Dr. J. W. Jervy, Ellison S. McKissick, Joseph Maybank, III., Stephen D. Mitchell, Mrs. J. W. Norwood, Jr., Mrs. A. D. Oliphant, Mrs. W. Lindsay Smith, Charles E. Thomas, Dr. Henry K. Townes.

*Spartanburg:* Mrs. Maner L. Tonge.

The Membership Committee expresses its appreciation for the gratifying response to its request in the July issue for recommendations for new members.

Members of the Society are reminded that at the annual meeting last January it was voted to change the annual meetings to the last Saturday in February. Because of certain conflicts on this date, which coincides with Washington's Birthday this year, the meeting has been postponed to the following Saturday, March 1. Dr. Bell I. Wiley of Emory University will be the guest speaker.

The Society will gratefully receive any copies of back issues of the *Magazine* which members may be willing to return. It is also seriously in need of a typewriter should any member have one available for disposal.

A complete set of the *Magazine* has been recently purchased by the Allendale County Library. Presbyterian College, Clinton, S. C., has ordered all back issues to complete its file.

Dr. Richard Walsh of Georgetown University is currently editing the writings of Christopher Gadsden, which will be published in this *Magazine* in 1959.

The following are among recent additions to the Society's Library and manuscript department:

*Some of the Ancestors and Descendants of James and George Ashford, Jr.* Compiled by Charlie Rabb Ashford, Sr. (Published by the author, 208 N. Montgomery Street, Starkville, Miss., 1956. Pp. 123. Index. \$3.50.)

*Families Descended from Samuel Butler Pegues (1778-1835) and His Wife, Juliet (King) Pegues.* Compiled by A. D. Pegues and Virginia P. Lidwin. Part of a general history of the Pegues family of America now in preparation for publication. (Privately printed, 1956. Pp. 58. Index.)

*Notes on the Alexander Family of South Carolina and Georgia and Connections.* Compiled by Henry Aaron Alexander. (Published by the author, 3440 Peachtree Rd., N. E. Atlanta, Ga., 1954. Pp. 143. Illustrations, chart, index.)

*The Vereens of Horry.* By Leonardo Andrea. (Copies available from Joseph J. Vereen, 1514 Fairview Road, Raleigh, N. C., 1957. Pp. 20. \$2.00.)

Letter book of Charles Manigault, 1846-1848. Gift of Mrs. R. E. Gribben, Winston-Salem, N. C.

Transcript of the Records of the Mount Olivit Baptist Church, Cross, S. C., 1852-1884. Gift of J. Russell Cross, Cross, S. C.

The Papers of John Bennett, comprising pamphlets, photographs, letters, memorabilia, extensive research notes on Negro music, dialects, and superstitions, and on a projected history of South Carolina from a Tory viewpoint.

Collection of photostats of maps and other material relating to the South Carolina Navy in the Revolution; Confederate and Reconstruction pamphlets and newspapers, photographs of Fort Sumter, letter book of John Fraser and Company, 1864-1865; genealogical notes. Gift of Admiral R. Bentham Simons, Charleston.

#### REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

The University of Chicago and the University of Virginia are sponsoring the publication of a new and complete edition of the papers of James Madison. The editors will appreciate information about the location of letters by or to James Madison or his wife, especially letters in

private possession or among uncalendared manuscripts in the collections of public or private institutions. Please address The Papers of James Madison, 1126 East 59th Street, Chicago 37, Illinois.

Kenneth Coleman, Department of History, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, is preparing a life of Sir James Wright, and would like to know of papers of Wright's that throw light on his public or private career in South Carolina or Georgia. James Wright (the son of Robert Wright, South Carolina's first chief justice under royal government) was South Carolina attorney general from about 1739 to 1757 and colonial agent from 1757 to 1760. In 1760 he was appointed lieutenant governor of Georgia and removed to Savannah, where he remained until the outbreak of the Revolution.

Mr. Henry Miot Cox, 1145 North 44th Street, Lincoln 3, Nebraska, wants information on James Oliver (d. 1803) of Abbeville County, Christopher Rhoades (d. 1812/3) and Shadrack Waldrop of Spartanburg County, Edward Jackson (b. 1755 in Craven County); also information on Bennett, Braswell, Langley, Morris, Pate, and Wiley families.

Mrs. Walter I. Havens, 1400 Sycamore, North Little Rock, Arkansas, desires information on William Rogers, born 1812, South Carolina, married Miss Cash and living in Gadsden County, Florida, by 1835; also information on ancestral lines: Collins-Atkinson, Collins-Parris, Woodberry-Pawley—all early South Carolina families.

Mrs. Robert Patten, 607 Queen's Road, Charlotte, N. C., wishes to know the name of the parents of Mary Caroline McDowell, born October 4, 1800, Christ Church Parish, died October 19, 1889, Charleston. She married, May 8, 1823, William Henry Swinton, son of Hugh Swinton, Jr., and Ann Jane Bruce Scott.

Mrs. John Witherspoon Ervin, 2605 N. W. 30th Street, Oklahoma City 12, Okla., wishes to correspond with descendants of Col. Samuel Watson (died in York County, S. C., 1810) and wife, Elizabeth MacDowell; especially desires information on sons Hugh, James, and John Watson, and on the Hogue, Parks, Ellerbe, Powe, Ervin, Witherspoon, and allied families.

Mayes Newell DuBose, 1387 E. 95th Street, Brooklyn 36, N. Y., desires to know the maiden name of Mrs. Jane Shackelford, who married Daniel DuBose, Oct. 3, 1793; also the name of Miss Fleming, who married their son Elias DuBose. Mr. DuBose would like to obtain pictures of these four, and of Capt. Elias DuBose and wife Lydia Cassels.

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